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Agenda item 112
Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Gratis personnel provided by Governments and other entities

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the reports of the Secretary-General containing the quarterly reports on the acceptance of gratis personnel for the periods from 1 January to 31 March 1998, and from 1 April to 30 June 1998 (A/C.5/52/51 and A/C.5/52/56); and referring to the phasing out of the use of gratis personnel in the Secretariat (A/C.5/52/54/Rev.1). During its consideration of the reports, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. In the report contained in document A/C.5/52/54/Rev.1, dated 10 July 1998, the Secretary-General referred to the request made by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/243 of 15 September 1997 for the expeditious phasing out of gratis personnel throughout the Secretariat. The Secretary-General indicated that, since the Department of Peacekeeping Operations was most affected by that decision, accelerated procedures had been initiated to "ensure the speedy recruitment of staff to replace gratis personnel". Vacancy announcements for posts proposed for conversion from gratis personnel to support account posts in the Secretary-General's report on the support account on peacekeeping operations (A/52/837 and Corr.1), would be circulated. That procedure, as indicated by the Secretary-General, would enable completion of the phasing out of gratis personnel by the end of February 1999 (see para. 4 below).

3. In this regard, the Advisory Committee was further informed during its hearings that a total of 115 vacancy announcements had been circulated to date. Of these, 64 announcements were for civilian-type functions. A total of 3,500 applications had been received and 445 candidates short-listed. The remaining 51 vacancy announcements for military and civilian police functions had been circulated to Member States with an eight-week deadline. As of the date of the hearings, 54 Member States had responded and 705 applications had been received.

4. The recommendations and observations of the Advisory Committee with regard to the support account for peacekeeping operations are contained in its reports dated 7 May 1998 (A/52/892) and 22 September 1998 (A/53/418). The Committee was further informed that, based on the decision to be taken by the General Assembly on the support account, the Secretariat would proceed to send out the recruitment letters before the end of December 1998.

5. The report of the Secretary-General dated 6 May 1998 (A/C.5/52/51) contains the quarterly report on the acceptance of gratis personnel in response to paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 51/243, and covers the period from 1 January to 31 March 1998.

6. The Committee notes from the information provided therein that, during the period covered, 43 type II gratis personnel concluded their assignments, while 33 started their

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service (5 in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, 1 at the Economic Commission for Europe, 18 in the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and 9 in the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda). The report of the Secretary-General of 15 July 1998 (A/C.5/52/56), which covers the period from 1 April to 30 June 1998, indicated that a total of 14 new type II gratis personnel had started their service during that period (8 in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and 6 at the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia), and that 85 such personnel had concluded their assignment during the same period. The Committee further notes that the number of type II gratis personnel has declined from a total of 256, as at 31 December 1997, to 246 as at 31 March 1998 and to 175 as at 30 June 1998, as indicated in annex III to the above-mentioned Secretary-General's report.

7. The Committee is still of the opinion that the information provided in both quarterly reports fails to demonstrate the extent to which all gratis personnel accepted in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations provide very specialized expertise not available within the Organization, as is required under paragraph 4 (a) of General Assembly resolution 51/243. While acknowledging the difficulties experienced by the Department during the transitional phase towards the completion of the phasing out of gratis personnel, the Committee reiterates its observation, reflected in paragraph 4 of its previous report (A/52/890), and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/234 of 26 June 1998, that practically all functions assigned to the gratis personnel referred to in the quarterly reports under consideration should be performed by staff members, and that it is the lack of adequate staff resources that gives rise to the acceptance of type II gratis personnel, rather than the need for very specialized functions not already available in the Secretariat or obtainable through recruitment.

8. The Committee also notes that the gratis personnel accepted in both tribunals are to carry out specialized functions "pending completion of the recruitment procedures against posts approved by the General Assembly in the Tribunal's budget". The Committee reiterates its statement made in paragraph 6 of its previous report (A/52/890), and endorsed by the General Assembly in paragraph 8 of its resolution 52/234, that "this action contravenes the procedures and provisions of resolution 51/243, which do not allow acceptance of gratis personnel on the grounds of failure by the Secretariat to recruit staff in an expeditious manner".

9. The Advisory Committee recommends that future quarterly reports of the Secretary-General, besides taking into account the comments made in paragraph 7 and 8 above, clearly demonstrate the acceptance of gratis personnel in strict accordance with the provisions contained in paragraphs 4 (a) and 4 (b) of resolution 51/243, indicate the number of staff in those areas where gratis personnel have been accepted to perform those functions, and provide information on compliance with the deadlines of engagement of such personnel (which hitherto has not been available). The Committee also points out that the next report to be issued by the Secretary-General should cover the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 September 1998, and should incorporate the annual report, as requested by the General Assembly in paragraph 12 of its resolution 51/243.

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Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Support account for peacekeeping operations

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. In his report (A/52/837) the Secretary-General requested 469 temporary support account posts for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 which, compared with the staffing table of 346 posts during the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, reflects the establishment of 20 new posts, the deletion of three posts and the conversion of 106 positions formally occupied by gratis personnel officers into temporary support account posts. The Advisory Committee was informed that the net additional 123 posts were costed at 50 per cent and that, had they been budgeted at full cost, the estimate for the support account for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 would have amounted to $45.3 million. Taking into account that the cost of backstopping of peacekeeping operations provided from the regular budget for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 is estimated at $6.8 million, the overall cost of headquarters backstopping of peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 on the full cost basis is, therefore, estimated at $52.1 million. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 39 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/52/837) that the overall cost of headquarters backstopping of peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 was estimated at $56.0 million.

2. At its spring 1998 session, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions considered the report of the Secretary-General on the estimates for the support account for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 (A/52/837). In its related report (A/52/892), the Advisory Committee indicated its intention "to resume consideration of the requirements for the support account for 1998–1999 in September 1998 after receipt of reliable data and analysis" (para. 14). Pending the submission by the Secretariat of the requested data and analysis, the Advisory Committee recommended at its spring 1998 session (see A/52/892) the establishment of four new posts for assets management and the conversion of 34 gratis positions to temporary posts, priority to be given to functions related to military expertise and civilian police (para. 14). The Committee also recommended an amount of $34.4 million for the support account for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999. This amount would be prorated to the various peacekeeping operations.

3. It is recalled that, in paragraph 11 of its report on the support account (A/51/906), the Committee made the following observation and recommendation with regard to the quality of information included in the budget proposal for the support account for the period 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998:

> "[F]or the most part, the budget submission does not contain workload statistics in support of the proposed staffing structure. Moreover, the mere

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provision of raw data without a qualitative analysis is of minimum utility. The Secretariat should develop an appropriate format for the systematic presentation of a meaningful workload analysis."

The Advisory Committee points out that the Secretariat has not yet responded to this specific recommendation.

4. In its resolution 52/248 of 26 June 1998, the General Assembly decided, *inter alia*, to approve 400 support account temporary posts and the support account posts and non-post requirements of $34.4 million for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999. In paragraph 19 of the same resolution, the Assembly, *inter alia*,

"Notes that the Advisory Committee intends to report in September 1998, having completed its detailed post-by-post justification on the basis of the information provided, on the workload of all posts, in accordance with resolutions 51/243 and 51/239 A, and would welcome its advice, as well as that of the Secretary-General, on the structure of those departments dealing with backstopping of peacekeeping operations, including issues of coordination and overlap".

5. The Advisory Committee regrets to report that, in the months following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 52/248 little has been done to meet the explicit concerns of the Advisory Committee concerning the quality of information contained in the report of the Secretary-General, nor has much been done to respond to the concerns of the Fifth Committee expressed in paragraph 4 of Assembly resolution 52/248 about "the contradictory and inconsistent information provided to the Fifth Committee by representatives of the Secretary-General on this issue which affected adversely the deliberations of the Committee and impeded informed and timely decisions". The Committee also points out that the General Assembly, in paragraph 7 of its resolution 52/248, while recalling its earlier request for an in-depth evaluation of the structure and staffing of those divisions and units involved in the support of peacekeeping operations, regretted "the lack of detail provided about the evaluation and that the useful information subsequently provided was not included in the original support account submission of the Secretary-General". The Advisory Committee also points out that the Secretariat has not replied to the requests contained in paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 52/248 (see para. 4 above).

6. This situation has made the task of the Advisory Committee to conduct a comprehensive review very difficult. In the paragraphs below, the Advisory Committee indicates areas where the lack of a reply to requests for clarification or additional information has affected a specific recommendation of the Committee. In addition, annex I below contains updated corrections to tables in the report of the Secretary-General.

7. The Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 14 September 1998, there were 23 vacant support account posts (including five posts under recruitment), or 6.7 per cent. The Committee recalls that, when it considered the proposed requirements under the support account for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, the vacancy rate was 7 per cent. The Advisory Committee was provided with a breakdown of the latest vacancies by office and grade, which is contained in annex II below. The Advisory Committee bore these vacancy statistics in mind when considering the need for additional posts as distinct from the requirement for a particular function. The Advisory Committee also bore in mind the fact that the total level of expenditure on peacekeeping operations has decreased from a peak of more than $3 thousand million to around $1 thousand million. Despite all the explanations of the need to maintain a minimum capacity and reference to the support required to plan for future missions, or for those that did not materialize, the fact remains that a diminution by more than two thirds must have a significant impact on support requirements not only in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, but also in other departments where some areas, such as procurement, would be particularly affected by diminution of workload, increased delegation of authority to the field and by other reform measures.

8. Moreover, the Advisory Committee has in the past pointed to the need to review the relationship between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs to avoid duplication and overlap (see, for example, paras. II.8 and II.9 of the Advisory Committee's first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999[1] and paras. II.15 and II.35 of the Advisory Committee's first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996–1997).[2] The Committee also recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolutions 50/214 and 52/220 of 23 December 1995 and 22 December 1997, respectively, requested that the Secretary-General ensure the clear delineation of responsibilities between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs. Similarly, there is possible duplication between some functions performed by the Department of Management and the administration in the field. Under the circumstances, and taking into account that stated in paragraph 7 above, the Advisory Committee has concluded in a number of instances below that, while a particular function needs to be added, the requirement for

posts could be met through redeployment after a thorough review of the current structure throughout the Secretariat. The results of this review and redeployment should be reported in the context of the next report of the Secretary-General on the support account. The Advisory Committee emphasizes that, in keeping with past requests, this review should cover posts funded from all sources.

New support account posts

9. The Secretary-General proposes the establishment of 20 new posts as follows:

Department of Peacekeeping Operations

Eight posts – Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters of the Planning Division (one P-5, six P-4 and one P-3);

One post – Civilian Police Unit of the Planning Division (one D-1);

Eight posts – Electronic Services Section of the Field Administration and Logistics Division, for peacekeeping assets management (one P-4, three P-3, one General Service (Principal level) and three General Service (Other level));

Office of Internal Oversight Services

Two posts – Investigation Section (one P-4 and one General Service);

Department of Management

One post – Contribution Service of the Financial Management Office (one General Service).

Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters

10. Out of the total of 20 new posts, eight are requested for the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters which, according to the Secretary-General, will enable the United Nations to quickly deploy a cohesive team of essential civilian and military personnel who will help to ensure that the deployment and initial phases of peacekeeping operations are well managed in the field; the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters will thus provide an immediate capacity with which to begin the mandate's implementation. The eight new posts comprise six military officers, one humanitarian affairs officer and one civilian police officer.

11. Paragraphs 5 to 12 of the report provide information relevant to the development of the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters; as indicated in paragraph 5, the General Assembly, by its resolution 50/30 of 6 December 1995 endorsed the proposals, recommendations and conclusions contained in the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/50/230). In paragraph 81 of its report, the Special Committee, *inter alia*, urged the Secretary-General to develop a rapidly deployable headquarters team comprised of personnel skilled in essential military and civilian functions. As indicated in paragraph 7 of the Secretary-General's report, the General Assembly, by its resolution 51/219 of 18 December 1996, adopted the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001, which listed among activities "the development, in the most transparent manner, of a rapidly deployable team composed of persons skilled in the essential military and civilian headquarters functions giving detailed consideration to its structure and mode of funding".

12. The Committee recalls that the original intention had been to finance the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters through voluntary contributions; to this effect, a trust fund had been established and had received voluntary contributions and pledges amounting to $475,100. This amount, however, fell far short of the nearly $3.2 million that, in the opinion of the Secretary-General, was necessary for the first two years of functioning of the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters, thus leading to the proposal to fund the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters from the support account. The Advisory Committee points out, in this regard, that no statements of programme budget implications had been presented in connection with the draft resolutions on the establishment of the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters. The Committee recalls that, during its consideration of the proposed estimates for the support account for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, the Committee was informed that a separate report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly was being prepared on the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters (see A/51/906, para. 36). Since no such report was submitted to the General Assembly, the Advisory Committee requests that it be submitted as soon as possible.

13. The Advisory Committee requests that, in the future, the Secretariat adhere strictly to relevant rules and regulations concerning recommendations of all

intergovernmental bodies which may result in financial or administrative implications for the Organization.

14. As indicated in paragraph 10 of the Secretary-General's report, the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters is envisaged as a three-tiered structure, with 8 persons serving full-time (6 military officers, 1 humanitarian affairs officer and 1 civilian police officer), 29 being drawn from existing resources of personnel fully employed by the Secretariat, but who could be taken away from their duties on short notice for a period of up to three months, and 24 persons from countries with standby arrangements with the United Nations, who would remain in their countries until deployment. The Advisory Committee was provided, upon request, with the functional breakdown of the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters team, which is reproduced in annex III below.

15. The Committee notes that the eight additional posts for the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters discussed above are proposed for the Planning Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The Committee is concerned about what appears to be a fragmented approach to planning functions within that Department. As can be seen from the report, various types of planning functions are currently being performed by most of its units and offices. The Advisory Committee recalls, in this connection, that the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, in paragraph 101 of its report (A/53/127), urged the Secretariat "to clarify the headquarters element's organizational relationship within the Department, particularly the differences in its functional responsibilities from those of the Mission Planning Service, and further to develop the concept for its employment during the initial phase of a new peacekeeping operation". The Committee is of the view that planning functions of the Department should be reviewed with a view to their streamlining and consolidation. This will allow better utilization of the human resources of the Department, part of which could be redeployed to perform functions related to the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters.

16. While the Advisory Committee agrees that the eight posts requested for the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters are needed, it questions whether it is justified to authorize all eight as additional posts for this purpose, rather than to meet some of these requirements through redeployment. As indicated above, six of the requested eight additional posts would be for serving military officers. The Committee was informed that there were 17 military officer and civilian police positions available to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and, as at 18 September 1998, 14 were encumbered. In addition, the Secretary-General proposes the conversion of 36 gratis positions in the Department into temporary posts to be filled by military officers.

17. Under the circumstances, the Committee recommends that, subject to further refinement of the operation of the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters, the requested six positions for military officers be provided through redeployment from within the existing support account establishment throughout the Secretariat. The Committee, however, has no objection to the request for the establishment of two P-4 posts: one for a humanitarian affairs officer and one for a civilian police officer. The Advisory Committee points out that, given the nature of the function of the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters posts, consideration will also have to be given at a future time to their mode of funding.

Civilian Police Unit

18. As indicated in paragraph 13 of the Secretary-General's report (A/52/837), one new post at the D-1 level is requested for the Civilian Police Unit in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, pursuant to resolution 52/69 of 10 December 1997, in which the General Assembly endorsed the proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. In paragraph 74 of the Special Committee's report (A/52/209) it once again urged the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to strengthen the Civilian Police Unit within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Additional information on the functions and responsibilities of the Civilian Police Unit is contained in paragraphs 80 to 83 of annex I to the Secretary-General's report; the Committee notes from paragraph 82 that the involvement of civilian police in United Nations peacekeeping missions has grown considerably in recent years and that there was every indication that, given the changing nature of the United Nations post-conflict intervention, the trend may continue. In this connection, the Committee notes from table 23 of annex I to the Secretary-General's report that, in addition to the proposed establishment of a D-1 post, the Secretary-General proposes the conversion of four gratis positions (three P-4 and one P-3) of the Civilian Police Unit to temporary posts (see para. 38 below), thus increasing the number of support account posts from two to seven. The Advisory Committee recommends that a D-1 post be approved for the Civilian Police Unit, as requested by the Secretary-General.

Peacekeeping assets management

19. The establishment of eight new posts (one P-4, three P-3 and four General Service) is proposed for the Electronic Services Section of the Field Administration and Logistics Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, for the implementation of the peacekeeping assets management function. The Committee points out that four of those posts (one P-4, two P-3 and one General Service) are a resubmission of a previous request for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 in connection with the field assets control system which was to be fully finalized and deployed before 31 December 1998, depending on the availability of resources. The Advisory Committee had indicated that it had no objection to the request of the Secretary-General, on the understanding that the need for the four posts should be met through redeployment. The General Assembly, by its resolution 52/1 of 15 October 1997, endorsed the proposal for the development and implementation of the field assets control system; took note of the intention of the Secretary-General to continue to develop the field mission logistic system; and decided to consider the question during the second part of its resumed fifty-second session.

20. The Advisory Committee was informed during the hearing on the Secretary-General's proposals that the Secretariat was unable to redeploy the four posts initially requested by the Secretary-General for the development and implementation of the field assets control system. Under the circumstances, the Advisory Committee supported the establishment of the four new posts (one P-4, two P-3 and one General Service), as reflected in paragraph 14 of its report (A/52/892). However, the need for the remaining four posts during the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 should be met through redeployment from within the existing support account establishment throughout the Secretariat. The need for these posts should be re-examined after the completion of the field assets control system.

Office of Internal Oversight Services

21. Two new posts (one P-4 and one General Service) are requested by the Secretary-General for the Investigation Section of the Office of Internal Oversight Services. According to the Secretary-General, "the number of peacekeeping-related investigations conducted by the Office has been significant. However, thus far, no support account posts have been provided to the Office for the performance of this function" (see A/52/837, para. 15). The Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the number of ongoing investigations during the period from 1 July 1997 to 28 February 1998 was 41, compared with 57 for the 12-month period ending on 30 June 1997. The Advisory Committee also notes that, in addition to 81 current regular budget posts, as shown in table 20 of annex II to the report, the staffing structure of OIOS for the 1997–1998 period provides for 11 support account posts and 2 gratis personnel officers, making a total of 94 positions. The Committee notes from annex III to the Secretary-General's report on gratis personnel (A/C.5/52/56) that there were no type II gratis personnel in the Office of Internal Oversight Services as at 30 June 1998. As the gratis personnel are being phased out, the proposal for a total of 96 posts amounts, in effect, to a request to convert the two former gratis positions into support account posts. The Committee also notes from table 20 of annex II to the report (A/52/837), that the staffing table of OIOS for the biennium 1998–1999 reflects an increase of one regular budget post and one (other) temporary post. The Committee recalls that three regular budget posts (one D-1, two P-3) of the Investigation Section were converted from temporary into established posts for the biennium 1998–1999 and that one General Service (Other level) post was redeployed to the Section from the Central Evaluation Unit. The Committee points out that the Office of Internal Oversight Services uses resources budgeted under peacekeeping operations when conducting auditing and the Committee sees no reason why the same approach cannot be used for investigation. The Committee recommends against the proposed establishment of a General Service post; it further recommends that any need for the P-4 post for investigation functions during the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 should be met through redeployment from within the existing support account establishment throughout the Secretariat.

Department of Management

22. The Secretary-General requests one new General Service post for the Contributions Service of the Financial Management Office of the Department of Management "in view of the workload it has to address" (see A/52/837, para. 16).

23. The Committee notes that the number of regular budget posts in the Contributions Service for the biennium 1998–1999 decreased by one General Service post. The Committee recalls that, in paragraph 26 of its report on support account requirements for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 (A/51/906) it did not "support this prima facie transfer from the regular budget to the support account". The Advisory Committee reiterates its position that the post should not be established.

Conversion of gratis personnel positions to additional support account posts

Department of Peacekeeping Operations

24. Paragraphs 17 to 20 of the Secretary-General's report deal with gratis personnel. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 51/243 of 15 September 1997, type II gratis personnel are to be phased out. As indicated in section III, paragraph 19, and in table 2, annex I, to the report, 106 additional support account posts are requested in replacement of 134 gratis personnel, following the in-depth evaluation and comprehensive review of the Department. According to the Secretary-General, should the General Assembly approve the conversion of the 106 gratis personnel positions into temporary support account posts, approximately 36 of such posts which require expertise not available in the Secretariat will be advertised externally for military officers.

25. The breakdown of the proposed conversions of 106 gratis personnel positions into temporary support account posts by offices and functions, including those positions which require military officers, is contained in annex IV below.

Office of the Military Adviser

26. The conversion of eight gratis positions to eight additional support account posts (two P-4, two P-3, one General Service (Principal level) and three General Service (Other level)) is proposed for the Office of the Military Adviser. The Committee notes from table 4 of annex I to the report that, during the period 1997–1998, the Office had three regular budget posts, three support account posts and 13 gratis personnel positions. The Advisory Committee was informed by the Secretariat that, during the classification exercise, it was determined that two P-3 posts out of the proposed eight posts will no longer be required and that one of the proposed P-4 posts was classified at the P-3 level. The revised request is therefore for one P-4, one P-3, one General Service (Principal level) and three General Service (Other level). Bearing in mind the recent trends in military aspects of the United Nations peacekeeping operations, the Advisory Committee recommends the conversion of three gratis positions into additional support account posts (one P-4, one P-3 and one General Service (Other level)). The Advisory Committee recommends against the establishment of the General Service Principal level post; the need for the remaining two General Service posts (Other level) should be met through redeployment from within the existing support account establishment throughout the Secretariat.

27. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 2 of annex I to the report (A/52/837) that the Office of the Military Adviser, as part of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, provides advice on all military matters and, in addition, the Military Adviser and his Deputy, as Director and Deputy Director of the Planning Division, are responsible for the supervision and coordination of all planning in respect of peacekeeping operations. The Advisory Committee understands that in the latter capacity, the Military Adviser and his Deputy report to the Assistant Secretary-General for the Office of Planning and Support. The Advisory Committee, however, is of the view that many functions currently carried out by the Office of the Military Adviser are also carried out by the Planning Division. The Committee considers that this situation should be reviewed, taking also into account its observations and comments reflected in paragraph 15 above.

Executive Office

28. The conversion of three gratis positions into three additional support account posts (one P-3 and two General Service (Other level)) is requested for the Executive Office of the Department. The Advisory Committee was informed by the Secretariat that the proposed P-3 post was classified at the P-2 level. As indicated in table 7 of annex I, there were seven support account posts in the Executive Office during the budget period 1997–1998. The Committee was informed, on enquiry, that the three additional posts for the Executive Office represent conversions from gratis positions previously included in the Office of the Military Adviser. Those positions were used in support of administration of the gratis and seconded military personnel, that is, functions which, the Committee believes, should not have been performed by gratis personnel.

29. The Committee is of the view that the increasing use of the Integrated Management Information System should lead to greater productivity in the Executive Office. The Committee expresses serious concern at what would appear to be a slow pace of introduction of new technology to process a number of functions in the office. The Committee was informed, for example, that the processing of some basic personnel actions, such as work attendance and leave entitlements, is still being done manually. The Advisory Committee, for the reasons stated in paragraphs 12 to 18 of annex I to the report of the Secretary-General, supports the conversion of three gratis positions into three additional posts for the Executive Office for the budget period 1998–1999. At the same time, the Committee requests that the staffing requirements of the Executive Office be

thoroughly reviewed; results of the review should be reflected in the proposal for the support account for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000.

Office of Operations

30. The proposed staffing table for the Office of Operations of the Department reflects the conversion of 14 gratis positions into 14 additional support account posts, as follows: one P-4 post in the Asia and Middle East Division, one P-4 post in the Europe and Latin America Division and 12 posts (two P-4, eight P-3 and two General Service) in the Situation Centre.

31. With regard to the requested additional P-4 post for the Asia and Middle East Division, the Advisory Committee did not find convincing arguments for the proposal, especially in terms of additional workload to be performed. The Advisory Committee notes from table 11 of annex I to the report (A/52/837) that, during the period 1997–1998, there were no gratis positions in the Division. With respect to the reference to monitoring developments in Afghanistan, reflected in paragraph 38 of annex I to the report, the Secretariat clarified that this function, which relates mostly to political aspects of developments in that country, is part of the overall responsibilities of the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations' involvement in it is quite limited. The Committee, in paragraph 8 above, has referred to its request to clarify the roles of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs. The Committee also recalls, in this connection, the comments and recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations referred to in paragraph 15 above. The Advisory Committee does not believe that the establishment of a P-4 post in Asia and Middle East Division is warranted and it recommends against approval of the proposal.

32. With regard to the proposed conversion of one gratis position into an additional P-4 post for the Europe and Latin America Division which, as indicated in paragraph 40 of annex I to the report, supported six ongoing peacekeeping operations, the Advisory Committee points out that the report should have been more accurate. For example, paragraph 41 of annex I to the report, which provides information on "a new mission, the United Nations Police Support Group" should have indicated that the Security Council (by its resolution 1145 (1997)) established the Support Group with a mandate limited to a single nine-month period from 16 January to 15 October 1998. The Advisory Committee points out that one peacekeeping operation supported by the Division, the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium is being liquidated and is, therefore, not convinced by the statement in paragraph 40 of annex I to the report that "the workload of the Division will remain at its current level for the next financial period". The Advisory Committee notes that, during the period 1997–1998, there were three gratis positions in the Division which will no longer be available during the period 1998–1999. The Committee is not convinced that the projected workload for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 justifies the establishment of an additional P-4 post for the Division.

33. In connection with the proposed conversion of 12 gratis positions into additional 12 support account posts (two P-4, eight P-3 and two General Service) for the Situation Centre, the Advisory Committee notes from table 13 of annex I to the report, that during the period 1997–1998, there were 16 gratis positions which no longer will be available for the Centre during the budget period 1998–1999; there are 11 support account posts and no regular budget posts in the staffing table of the Centre.

34. The Committee recalls that in paragraph 18 of its report on the support account (A/51/906), it pointed out that "the time has come to evaluate the operation of the Centre and its resource requirements, with a view to determining its cost-effectiveness" and recommended that "the results of the evaluation be reflected in the next budget submission of the Secretary-General on the support account".

35. According to paragraphs 49 and 50 of annex I to the report, the evaluation has been carried out together with a study of the functions of the Situation Centre; paragraph 50 lists the current responsibilities of the Centre. The Advisory Committee regrets that the report does not contain information on the terms of reference for the evaluation of the Centre, the manner in which it was carried out, or the findings of the evaluation, nor does the report contain any specific information on the workload of the Centre or the division of responsibilities among its military and civilian components. No indication was provided in the report with regard to new functions and responsibilities that were assigned to the Centre as a result of the evaluation and the study. It is recalled that the Committee recommended in paragraph 18 of its report on the support account (A/51/906) that the operation of the Centre be evaluated "with a view to determining its cost-effectiveness". The Secretariat has failed to include in the report of the Secretary-General information which could contribute to determining cost-effectiveness of the Situation Centre. The Committee is not satisfied with the fact that the only conclusion of the study which was reflected in the report of the Secretary-General was that "the Centre was performing a series of valuable

activities, but that it should be providing its services to a wider group of departments and to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General on a more formal basis" (see A/52/837, annex I, para. 49). The Committee notes from paragraph 51 of annex I to the report, that the Centre "has been put under the direct supervision of the Assistant Secretary-General responsible for the Office of Operations in DPKO".

36. The Advisory Committee points out that the budget submission for the Situation Centre does not contain workload indicators which could justify the establishment of all 12 additional posts requested. The Committee's review of the functions of these 12 posts led it to conclude that the establishment of all 12 posts for the Situation Centre is not warranted for the next budget period. Some functions appear to be overly ambitious and unnecessarily complex. For example, the functions of the head of the Information and Research Unit (a P-4 post) specify that he/she "oversees all points of contact between media and other information agencies, UN Political and Military desk officers and national information sources for matters pertaining to research and analysis of information". The Advisory Committee is of the view that functions currently assigned to the Information and Research Unit should be streamlined and the responsibilities of its staff defined much more clearly. The Committee recommends that only seven additional posts, out of the requested 12, be established (one P-4, five P-3 and one General Service) for the Situation Centre.

37. The conversion of 23 out of a total of 27 gratis positions is proposed for the Planning Division, in addition to eight new posts for the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters and one new post for the Civilian Police Unit referred to in paragraphs 10 to 18 above. The distribution of the 23 posts by offices and grades is as follows: one P-5, 11 P-4 and one General Service for the Mission Planning Service, three P-4 and one P-3 for the Civilian Police Unit and four P-4 and two P-3 for the Training Unit.

38. As indicated in paragraph 15 above, the Committee is concerned about what appears to be unnecessary proliferation and fragmentation of planning functions within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The Committee is of the view that these functions should be streamlined and consolidated. The Advisory Committee recommends the conversion of 13 gratis positions into additional posts out of the requested 23 for the Planning Division as follows: one P-5 and five P-4 for the Mission Planning Service, three P-4 and one P-3 for the Civilian Police Unit in view of expanding volume of police functions in United Nations peacekeeping operations and two P-4 and one P-3 for the Training Unit.

Field Administration and Logistics Division

39. The conversion of 58 gratis positions is requested for the Field Administration and Logistics Division of the Department, in addition to the eight new posts for the Electronic Services Section of the Division referred to in paragraphs 19 and 20 above. The staffing table of the Division was omitted from the budget submission and is reproduced as annex V below. As can be seen, the 1997–1998 staffing structure of the Division provides for 24 regular budget posts, 154 support account posts and 68 gratis positions. The distribution, by offices and grades, of the 58 additional support account posts to be converted from gratis positions is as follows: 17 posts (two P-4, 10 P-3, three General Service (Principal level) and two General Service (Other level)) for the Finance Management and Support Service, 40 posts (one P-5, nine P-4, 28 P-3 and two P-2) for the Logistics and Communications Service and one P-3 post for the Personnel Management and Support Service.

40. Out of the 17 proposed conversions for the Finance Management and Support Service, the Secretary-General requests two posts (one P-4 and one P-3) for the Office of the Chief of Service, one General Service (Other level) post for the Office of the Chief of Claims and Information Management Section, nine posts (seven P-3, one General Service (Principal level) and one General Service (Other level)) for the Contingent-Owned Equipment Claims Unit, one P-3 post for the Death and Disability and Other Claims Unit, two P-3 posts for the Systems and Data Analysis Unit and two General Service (Principal level) posts for the Financial Support Section. The Committee raised numerous questions in an attempt to clarify data reflected in the budget submission for the Field Administration and Logistics Division. For example, the Committee enquired into the implication of a statement in paragraph 91 of annex I to the report, that "the staffing indicated for the Office of the Director in the previous support account budget was incorrect". The Secretariat failed to respond to the Committee's enquiry.

41. The Advisory Committee is concerned about what appears to be an excessive fragmentation in organizational structure of the Field Administration and Logistics Division which comprises a large number of small units and it requests that the structure be reviewed and results of the review be reflected in the budget proposal for the support account for the period 1999–2000.

42. The budget submission contains no information, nor justification in support of the proposed conversion of three gratis positions into support account posts for the Office of the Chief of Finance Management and Support Service (one P-4 and one P-3) and for the Office of the Chief of Claims and Information Management Section (one General Service (Other level)). The Secretariat failed to provide the Committee with requested justification for the conversions. The Committee, while regretting this situation, nevertheless recommends conversion of two posts (one P-4 and one P-3) for the Finance Management and Support Service since it believes, in general, that this vital area has suffered from understaffing. The Committee does not recommend the establishment of an additional General Service post for the Office of the Chief of the Claims and Information Management Section.

43. With respect to the request for nine additional posts (seven P-3, one General Service (Principal level) and one General Service (Other level)) for the Contingent-Owned Equipment Claims Unit, the Advisory Committee notes that, during the period 1997–1999, there were 14 gratis positions in the Unit, in addition to five support account posts and three regular budget posts. The Advisory Committee expresses serious concern that the bulk of the work of the Unit is being done by gratis personnel. The Committee notes from paragraph 97 of annex I to the report, that "the present backlog in contingent-owned equipment, letters of assist and spare parts claims will require several months of intensive work before the operation becomes current". The Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that as of end of March 1998, there were 156 contingent-owned equipment claims under various stages of review or negotiations and 19 cases which had not yet been examined; there were also 204 letters of assist and spare parts claims that remained outstanding. The Advisory Committee was also informed that the final processing of the outstanding backlog in contingent-owned equipment, letters of assists and spare parts claims will take several months to clear and to bring the operation to a routine status. Moreover, the Committee was informed that the reduced requirements for general temporary assistance funds for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations from $318,500 in 1997–1998 to $100,000 for 1998–1999 reflect the non-continuation of general temporary assistance funds previously provided for the backlog of contingent-owned equipment claims; in addition, these requirements were further reduced in the light of recorded savings under general temporary assistance for the period ending on 30 June 1998.

44. Information on contingent-owned equipment arrangements is also contained in part VII of the Advisory Committee's general report on administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing to peacekeeping operations (A/52/860). The Committee is of the view that the Secretary-General's report does not take full account of the fact that new contingent-owned equipment arrangements should lead to less staff required to process contingent-owned equipment claims. The Committee, taking into account additional information on progress in clearing the outstanding backlog, recommends the establishment of four Professional posts for the contingent-owned equipment Claims Unit, out of seven Professional posts requested by the Secretary-General. The Committee recommends against the one General Service post (Other level); the need for one General Service (Principal level) post should be met through redeployment from within the existing support account establishment throughout the Secretariat.

45. The Advisory Committee was provided with job descriptions for all posts in the Death and Disability and Other Claims Unit, except for the requested additional P-3 post, the functions of which were described simply as "generic". Under the circumstances, and bearing in mind the new streamlined procedures for processing of claims, the Advisory Committee is not convinced that the request for the establishment of one additional P-3 post for the Death and Disability Unit is justified.

46. The conversion of two gratis positions to P-3 support account posts is requested for the Systems and Data Analysis Unit which, during the 1997–1998 period had three gratis positions, in addition to two support account posts. As indicated in paragraph 102 of annex I to the report, one of the functions of the Unit is the update of the standard cost manual and preparation of standard ratios based on historical data and experience in the field. However, the Advisory Committee has pointed out in its general report on peacekeeping operations (A/52/860) that peacekeeping budget estimates are often prepared on the basis of outdated standard ratios which do not take account of recent experience in the implementation of peacekeeping budgets. In the same report, the Committee recommended that a thorough review be made of the standard cost ratios and the related manual. To this end, and so as to ensure that such review is undertaken expeditiously, the Committee has no objection to the request for these additional two P-3 posts.

47. The conversion of two General Service (Principal level) gratis positions is proposed for the Financial Support Section which, during the 1997–1998 budget period, had 15 support account posts, two gratis positions and four regular budget posts. The Committee notes from paragraphs 109 and 115 of annex I to the report, that one of the two proposed additional posts is requested for the Africa Unit (one General Service (Principal level)) and the other for the Europe and

Latin America Unit (one General Service (Principal level)). In addition, the upgrading of one P-3 post to the P-4 level is requested for the Liquidation Unit. The Committee points out that a substantial amount of work related to the liquidation phase of peacekeeping operations is done in the field or by officers paid from peacekeeping budgets. The Committee was informed that the requested general service posts were classified at a lower (Other) level. The Committee recommends that the need for these two General Service (Other level) posts be met through redeployment from within the existing support account establishment throughout the Secretariat. The Committee has no objection to the requested upgrading.

48. The staffing proposal for the Logistics and Communication Service of the Division provides for the conversion of 40 out of 41 gratis positions to support account posts and the establishment of eight new posts for the implementation of the peacekeeping assets management function referred to in paragraphs 19 and 20 above. The proposed distribution of a total of 48 additional posts is as follows:

eleven posts – Electronic Services Section;
eight posts – Engineering Section;
seven posts – Logistics Operations Section;
seven posts – Supply Section;
five posts – Medical Support Unit;
ten posts – Transport Section.

49. As shown above, 11 additional posts (two P-4, five P-3, one General Service (Principal level) and three General Service (Other level)) are requested for the Electronic Services Section, including the eight new posts for the implementation of the peacekeeping assets management function in respect of which the Committee's recommendations and comments are contained in paragraphs 19 and 20 above. Consequently, the remaining additional posts to be considered in this part of the report are one P-4 and two P-3. The Advisory Committee notes from table 37 of annex I to the report that, during the budget period 1997–1998, there were three gratis positions in the Section, in addition to 14 support account posts and one regular budget post. According to the Secretary-General, "while there was a reduction in the number of fielded peacekeepers, the number of operations supported actually increased, resulting in an increase in the workload in the Section" (see A/52/837, annex I, para. 122). Upon request, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations clarified that, during 1997, it had had a fairly stable number of peacekeeping missions, but that it had been tasked with supporting small special missions and field offices each of which, while not significantly changing the number of peacekeepers, demanded the same amount of headquarters support. Such small offices also often lacked specialized technicians and therefore needed more support from headquarters compared with larger missions. The Advisory Committee recommends that the need for the proposed additional three posts (one P-4 and two P-3) for the Electronic Services Division be met through redeployment from within the existing support account establishment throughout the Secretariat.

50. The conversion of eight gratis positions into support account posts (one P-4 and seven P-3) is proposed for the Engineering Section, the staffing structure of which during the budget period 1997–1998, provided for one regular budget post, five support account posts and eight gratis positions. The Committee has reviewed the functions of the currently authorized posts and of the proposed additional posts in the Section. The Committee notes that three proposed additional P-3 posts of engineering operations officers will be responsible for the day-to-day oversight and management of the engineering programme and all related support issues in United Nations peacekeeping operations located in Africa, Europe, Latin America, Asia and the Middle East. The Committee points out that a significant amount of engineering work is done in the field by the support units of peacekeeping administration and it is not clear as to what type of additional engineering support needs to be provided by desk engineers at Headquarters. The Committee also points out that one of the proposed additional posts (P-3) would deal with assets/material management, and that this function is performed by some other units of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The Committee is of the view that the functions of the posts in the Section should be more clearly defined, streamlined and integrated. At the same time the Committee saw the rationale in the proposal to maintain a small team of professionals with in-depth knowledge in various specialist fields of engineering. The Committee recommends the establishment of four posts (one P-4 and three P-3) out of the eight additional posts requested for the Section.

51. Seven additional posts are requested for the Logistics Operations Section through the conversion of seven current gratis positions of the Section into support account posts (one P-4 and six P-3). The main responsibilities of the Section and the description of a few aspects of its functioning are contained in paragraphs 129 to 135 of annex I to the report (A/52/837). In the opinion of the Committee, the assertions made in paragraph 133 of the report raise a serious issue. It is stated that, due to lack of resources, a backlog of work has developed which included "the development of logistics policy, procedures and

managerial tools to improve the development and implementation of comprehensive procedures for the reimbursement ... of contingent-owned equipment in field missions; ... and the finalization of claims related to self-sustainment by contingents in closed peacekeeping missions". The Committee points out that this statement implies that reimbursement made thus far, or the estimates included in peacekeeping budgets and performance reports, may not have been based on well-developed procedures and management tools. The Committee, in fact, commented on these very shortcomings in its general report on peacekeeping operations (A/52/860). In view of the problems facing this section and the importance of the work being carried out the Committee recommends two additional posts (one P-4 and one P-3); in addition, the need for three P-3 posts should be met through redeployment from within the existing support account establishment throughout the Secretariat. The Committee requests that the posts in the Logistics Operations Section be administered with necessary flexibility, allowing for a better response to changing workload demands.

52. Although a request is made for the establishment of seven additional posts (four P-4, one P-3 and two P-2) for the Supply Section (see A/52/837, annex I, para. 141), table 40 reflects 12 additional support account posts. As clarified by the Secretariat, table 40 of annex I to the report, incorporates staffing requirements for the Medical Support Unit (see para. 53 below). The request for seven additional posts reflects a conversion of seven gratis positions of the Section into support account posts. The Advisory Committee recalls its concern that so many gratis personnel officers were involved in this Section. Paragraphs 137 to 140 of annex I to the Secretary-General's report contain a description of the main functions and responsibilities of the Section. The Committee's review of the functions of the posts in the Section led it to conclude that the establishment of all seven additional posts is not justified. The Committee recommends that the need for three additional posts for contracts management officers (one P-4, one P-3 and one P-2) be met through redeployment from within the existing support account establishment throughout the Secretariat.

53. The conversion of five gratis positions into support account posts (one P-5, one P-4 and three P-3) is requested for the Medical Support Unit which plans, organizes and supports medical aspects of peacekeeping operations. The Advisory Committee is concerned at the establishment of a new medical infrastructure at Headquarters. The Committee was informed that the objective was to deal with the question of managing a large volume of medical supplies, including inventory. The Committee was also informed that various missions find themselves with large quantities of medical assets which often arrive late in the mission area, owing to the slow procurement process. The Medical Support Unit provides advice on these and other matters. The Committee is not convinced that, in order to solve the problem of medical supply, there is a need to establish yet another unit in the Secretariat. The question should be solved through proper procurement planning. The Committee does not support the establishment of five additional posts for the Medical Support Unit and recommends instead that the need for two support account posts for the Unit be met through redeployment from within the existing support account establishment throughout the Secretariat.

54. The conversion of 10 gratis positions into support account posts (one P-4 and nine P-3) is requested for the Transport Section, thereby increasing the number of support posts from 15 to 25. The 10 additional posts would be allocated as follows: two P-3 posts for the Surface Transport Unit, two P-3 posts for the Air Transport Unit, one P-3 post for the Aviation Safety Unit, four P-3 posts for the Movement Control Unit and one P-4 post for the Sea Transport Unit.

55. According to the Secretary-General, the Surface Transport Unit administers 10,000 vehicles worldwide (see A/52/837, annex I, para. 146), the Committee points out that, firstly, due to the decrease in the level of peacekeeping operations it is unlikely that the Unit will continue to administer the same number of vehicles in the 1998–1999 financial period. The Advisory Committee was informed, on enquiry, that the vehicle fleet strength was 8,397 vehicles of all types as at April 1998 and was estimated at 8,500 vehicles as at 1 July 1998. Secondly, the use of centralized procurement of standardized vehicles, including spare parts, should bring greater productivity and efficiency in the procurement and management of the United Nations fleet of vehicles.

56. With respect to the Movement Control Unit for which four additional posts are requested, the Committee notes from paragraph 158 of annex I to the report, that the number of personnel moved by the Unit has dropped sharply from 280,000 in 1995 to 50,000 in 1997. In addition, the Committee notes from paragraph 159 of annex I to the report, that the increasing use of air charter facilitates the movement of personnel. Moreover, it is not clear how the research work mentioned in the Secretary-General's report will give rise to a need for additional staff.

57. With regard to the request for the conversion of a gratis position to an additional support account P-4 post for the Sea Transport Unit, the Committee notes from paragraph 162 of

annex I to the report, that the Unit planned, implemented and monitored about 40 shipping services estimated at $30 million during 1996–1997, compared to approximately 30 shipments estimated at $15 million during 1997–1998.

58. Taking into account that stated in the paragraphs above, the Advisory Committee recommends that only two gratis positions of the Transport Section be converted to additional support account posts, while the need for another two additional support account posts be met through redeployment from within the existing support account establishment throughout the Secretariat.

59. The conversion of one gratis position into an additional P-3 support account post is requested for the Personnel Management and Support Service which, during the budget period 1997–1998, had 10 regular budget posts, 52 support account posts and three gratis positions. The Committee's review of the functions of posts in the Service shows that its staff resources need to be further evaluated. The Advisory Committee, therefore, does not recommend the establishment of the requested additional post for the Section.

Non-post backstopping requirements of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations

60. Paragraphs 175 to 190 of annex I to the Secretary-General's report provide information on non-post requirements of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations estimated at $1,688,800 for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999. These requirements reflect a decrease of $459,700 or 21.4 per cent, compared with the related support account resources of $2,148,500 budgeted for the current period. The Advisory Committee has no objection to the proposal. At the same time, the Committee points out that the Secretariat needs to significantly improve budgetary planning and performance with regard to support account expenditures. For example, as can be seen from table 1 of annex I to the report, expenditures for the six-month period from July to December 1997 amounted to only 4.9 per cent under general temporary assistance and 1.4 per cent under training, compared with the approved budget for the period July 1997 to June 1998, while expenditures under travel amounted to 78.0 per cent.

Other Secretariat departments and offices involved in providing backstopping support

The Department of Management

61. The support account budget proposal for the Department for the next financial period reflects a decrease in support account posts from 105 to 103, the elimination of 4 gratis positions and an increase of posts funded from other extrabudgetary sources from 132 to 133. The Secretariat has failed to provide the Committee with clarification as to the nature and source of funding of posts reflected in the column entitled "Other temporary posts" in table 2 of annex II to the Secretary-General's report. The Committee requests that this clarification be provided to the Fifth Committee.

62. The Committee points out that the decrease in support account posts from 105 to 103 reflects, in fact, the net effect of a decrease of three support account posts in the Secretariat of the Advisory Committee and an increase of one support account General Service post for the Contributions Service. The Committee's comments and recommendations with regard to the requested new post for the Contributions Service are reflected in paragraph 23 above.

63. The Advisory Committee finds useful the inclusion in the report of a summary of workload indicators for the Peacekeeping Financing Division for the period 1992–1997. The summary demonstrates the increase in the Division's workload. As can be seen from table 5 in annex II to the report, the number of support account posts of the Division for 1998–1999 will remain at its current level of 32. In this connection, the Committee refers to the comments and recommendations on the issue of the quality of preparation of peacekeeping financial performance and budget reports reflected in its report on general aspects of peacekeeping operations (A/52/860). The Committee also stresses the need for the representatives of the Peacekeeping Financing Division of the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts and the Field Administration and Logistics Division to meet and discuss the issue of improving coordination and cooperation and streamlining the relationship between them to improve the budget preparation and implementation process.

64. Paragraphs 47 to 69 of annex II to the report provide information on support account staffing requirements for the Office of Human Resources Management. The Committee notes from paragraph 51 that comprehensive salary surveys of best prevailing conditions of employment of locally recruited staff are conducted on an 18-24 month cycle. The Committee was informed that the surveys are conducted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on behalf of the United Nations. The Committee is of the view that there is a need to clarify the role of the Office of Human Resources Management and UNDP in conducting the surveys. The Advisory Committee also notes from paragraph 51 that "at least one week per year for each operation is required for reviewing and processing interim adjustment of local salary scales". The Advisory Committee has also

submitted comments on salary surveys in its general report on peacekeeping operations (A/52/860).

65. The Committee notes from paragraph 62 of annex II that a provision of $123,400, which is equivalent to the cost of a P-4 post, is requested under general temporary assistance for the Administrative Law Unit, which currently has no support account post. The Advisory Committee recalls that, paragraph III.21 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999, it expressed the view that legal functions in the Secretariat should be "better performed by experienced staff, acquainted with United Nations practice, on a permanent rather than temporary basis".[3] Moreover, the Advisory Committee believes that it will not be appropriate to charge, on a continuous basis, expenditures related to salary and common staff costs to the general temporary assistance budget line. The situation should be regularized and the Committee recommends, therefore, that the provision of $123,400 for general temporary assistance be deleted and, instead, a P-4 support post be established for the Unit. Paragraphs 59 to 61 of the Secretary-General's report demonstrate the increase in workload of the Unit. The Committee requests that priority be given to dealing with the backlog cases referred to in paragraph 61 of annex II to the report.

66. The comments and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the requested two new posts (one P-4 and one General Service (Other level)) for the Office of Internal Oversight Services are contained in paragraph 21 above. The Committee has no objection to the proposed non-post requirements for the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

67. The table below provides a recapitulation of the Advisory Committee's recommendations on the support account staffing establishment for the budget period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999:

Organizational Unit	*As proposed by Secretary-General in A/52/837*	*As recommended by ACABQ*			*Paragraph in ACABQ report*
		Additional posts	*Redeployment*	*No*	
A. New support account posts					
Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters	8	2	6	—	17
Civilian Police	1	1	—	—	18
Assets management	8	4	4	—	19, 20
Office of Internal Oversight Services	2	—	1	1	21
Contributions Section	1	—	—	1	23
Subtotal A	**20**	**7**	**11**	**2**	
B. Conversion of gratis personnel					
Military Adviser's Office	8	3	2	3	26
Executive Office	3	3	—	—	29
Asia/Middle East Division	1	—	—	1	31
Europe/Latin America Division	1	—	—	1	32
Situation Centre	12	7	—	5	36
Planning Division	23	13	—	10	38
Finance Management and Support Service	3	2	—	1	42
Contingent-owned equipment Claims Unit	9	4	1	4	44
Death and Disability Unit	1	—	—	1	45
Systems Data Analysis Unit	2	2	—	—	46
Finance Support Section	2	—	2	—	47
Electronics Service Division	3	—	3	—	49
Engineering Section	8	4	—	4	50
Logistics Operation Section	7	2	3	2	51
Supply Section	7	—	3	4	52
Medical Support Unit	5	—	2	3	53
Transport Section	10	2	2	6	58
Personnel Management Service	1	—	—	1	59
OHRM Administrative Law Unit[a]	General temporary assistance funds	1	—	—	65
Subtotal B	**106**	**43**	**18**	**46**	
Total A and B	**126**	**50**	**29**	**48**	
ACABQ Secretariat[b]	- 3	- 3	—	—	
Grand Total	**123**	**47**	**29**	**48**	

[a] Secretary-General's request is for 12 months of general temporary assistance at the P-4 level.

[b] Deletion of 3 posts from the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions Secretariat, transferred to the regular budget.

Notes

[1] A/52/7 (chap. II, part II). To be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/52/7/Rev.1).

[2] A/51/7 (chap. II, part II). To be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/51/7/Rev.1).

[3] A/52/7 (chap. II, part III). To be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/52/7/Rev.1).

Annex I

Support account for peacekeeping operations

Corrections to tables in the report of the Secretary-General (A/52/837)

Table		*Description*	*Correction(s) to be made*
Annex I	3.	Office of the Under-Secretary-General	One P-2 post (RB) under 1997–1998 should be deleted. Total RB posts should be 2 (1 USG and 1 GS (OL)). The column "Total" for the table should be adjusted accordingly.
	5.	Policy and Analysis Unit	One P-2 post (RB) under 1997–1998 should be added. The P-4 support account post under 1997–1998 should read P-5. The column "Total" for the table should be adjusted accordingly.
	15.	Office of the Assistant Secretary-General	One P-5 and one P-4 and 1 GS (OL) support account posts have not been included under 1997–1998. The number of gratis military officers should read 4 P-4 and 2 P-3. The column "Total" for the table should be adjusted accordingly.
	25.	Office of the Director, Field Administration and Logistics Division	One P-3 post (RB) under 1997–1998 should be added. Total number of RB posts should read 4. The column "Total" for the table should be adjusted accordingly.
	26.	Finance Management and Support Services	One P-3 post (RB) under 1997–1998 should be deleted. Text is missing in paragraph 93: one P-4 and one P-3 post are requested for the Office of Service Chief, FMSS, through conversion of 2 gratis military officer posts (1 P-4 and 1 P-3). The column "Total" for the table should be adjusted accordingly.
	31.	Financial Support Section, FMSS	One P-3 post (RB) under 1997–1998 should be deleted. The column "Total" for the table should be adjusted accordingly.
	33.	Asia and Middle East Section, FMSS	One P-3 post (RB) under 1997–1998 should be deleted. The column "Total" for the table should be adjusted accordingly.
	41.	Medical Support Unit	The table should be deleted. Text in paragraphs 142 and 143 should precede table 40.
	45.	Staffing Support Section	One P-5 gratis military officer post should be deleted. The total number of gratis military officers under 1997–1998 should read 1. The column "Total" for the table should be adjusted accordingly.
Annex II	2.	Overall staffing of units involved in backstopping of peacekeeping operations	The column "Other" for 1997–1998 should read: 1 D-1, 7 P-5, 9 P-4, 11 P-3, 6 P-2/1, 34 subtotal, 13 GS/PL, 81 GS/OL, 4 Trades and Crafts, 98 subtotal and 132 total. The column "Other" for 1998–1999 should read: 1 D-1, 7 P-5, 9 P-4, 11 P-3, 7 P-2/1, 35 subtotal, 13 GS/PL, 81 GS/OL, 4 Trades and Crafts, 98 subtotal and 133 total. The column "Total" for the table should be adjusted accordingly.

Annex II

Support account vacancies as of 14 September 1998

	Organizational unit	*Level*	*Title*
1	Department of Peacekeeping Operations		
	Mine Action Service	P-5	Programme Officer
	Engineering Section	P-5	Senior Engineer
	Office of the Under-Secretary-General	P-5	Chief, Policy Analysis Unit
	Asia and Middle East Division	P-4	First Officer
	Africa Division	P-4	Political Affairs Officer
	Mission Planning Service	P-4	Planning Officer
	Mine Action Service	P-4	Programme Officer
	Executive Office	P-4	Personnel Officer
	Lessons Learned Unit	P-4	Coordination Officer
	Logistics and Communication Service	P-4	First Officer
	Logistics and Communication Service	P-3	Logistics Officer
	Electronic Data-Processing Unit	P-3	Computer Operations Officer
	Air safety Unit	P-3	Air Safety Officer
	Liquidation Unit	P-3	Finance Officer
	Surface transport Unit	P-3	Transport Officer
2	Information Technology Services Division	P-2	Computer Operations Officer
3	Office of Human Resources Management	P-4	Human Resources Officer
4	Peacekeeping Financing Division	D-1	Deputy Director
		P-3	Finance Officer
5	Procurement Division	P-4	Procurement Officer
		P-3	Procurement Officer
6	Office of Internal Oversight Services	P-3	Auditor
		P-4	Auditor

Annex III

Department of Peacekeeping Operations
Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters
Staffing Table

	Title/function	*Rank*	*United Nations level/equivalent*	*Number*
1.	**Implementation Team**			
	Chief of Staff	Colonel	P-5	1
	Military Information Officer	Lt. Colonel	P-4	1
	Operations Officer	Lt. Colonel	P-4	1
	Engineering Officer	Lt. Colonel	P-4	1
	Logistics Officer	Lt. Colonel	P-4	1
	Humanitarian Affairs Officer	Civilian	P-4	1
	Civilian Police	Civilian	P-4	1
	Operations Staff Officer	Major	P-3	1
	Subtotal			**8**
2.	**Secretariat Staff**			
	Administration:			
	Chief Administrative Officer		D-1	1
	Chief Administrative Support Services		P-5	1
	Personnel Officer		P-4	1
	Finance Officer		P-4	1
	Finance Officer		P-3	1
	Finance Officer		P-2	1
	Procurement Officer		P-4	1
	Contracts Management Officer		P-3	1
	Chief Integrated Support Services		P-5	1
	Transport Officer		P-4	1
	Electronics Services Section		P-3	1
	Engineering Officers		P-4	1
	Engineering Officers		P-3	1
	Property Control and Inventory Officer		P-3	2
	Movement Control Officer		P-4	1
	Military:			
	Communications		P-4	1
	Medical		P-4	1
	Demining		P-5	1
	Training		P-4	1

	Title/function	*Rank*	*United Nations level equivalent*	*Number*
	Civil Affairs:			
	Chief		P-5	1
	Public Information/Relations		P-3	1
	Public Affairs		P-3	2
	Humanitarian Affairs		P-3	1
	Situation Centre		P-3	1
	Political Adviser		P-4	1
	Legal Adviser		P-4	1
	Civilian Security Coordinator		P-3	1
	Subtotal			**29**
3.	**Representatives made available by Governments**			
	Administration:			
	Chief Integrated Support Services			1
	Movement Control			2
	Transport			1
	Engineering			1
	Supply			2
	Electronic Services Section			2
	Administrative Support Services			2
	Military:			
	Intelligence	Major	P-3	1
	Personnel	Lt. Colonel	P-4	1
	Supply	Lt. Colonel	P-4	1
	Communications	Major	P-3	1
	Logistics	Major	P-3	1
	Movement Control	Lt. Colonel	P-4	1
	Movement Control	Major	P-3	1
	Air Control	Major	P-3	3
	Civil Affairs:			
	Public Information/Relations		P-3	1
	Situation Centre		P-3	1
	Civilian/Military Liaison Officer		P-4	1
	Subtotal			**24**
	Total, Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters			**61**

Annex IV

Proposed posts to be converted from gratis

Functional title	*Grade*	*Posts which require military officers*	*Remarks*
Office of the Under-Secretary-General			
Military Advisers Office			
1. Staff Officer, Military Personnel	P-4	X	Classified P-3
2. Military Assistant to the Military Adviser	P-4	X	
3. Military Affairs and Projects Officer	P-3	X	No longer required
4. Military Information Systems Officer	P-3	X	No longer required
5. Administrative Assistant	GS-OL		
6. Administrative Assistant	GS-OL		
7. Administrative Assistant	GS-OL		
8. Administrative Assistant	GS-OL		
Executive Office			
9. Administrative Officer	P-3		Classified P-2
10. Administrative Assistant	GS-OL		
11. Administrative Assistant	GS-OL		
Office of Operations			
Asia and Middle East Division			
12. Military Mission Officer	P-4	X	
Europe and Latin America Division			
13. Military Mission Officer	P-4	X	
Situation Centre			
14. Head of Information and Research Unit	P-4	X	
15. Information and Research Officer	P-3	X	
16. Information and Research Officer	P-3	X	
17. Information and Research Officer	P-3	X	
18. Duty Room Deputy Head	P-4		
19. Duty Room Officer	P-3		
20. Duty Room Officer	P-3		
21. Duty Room Officer	P-3		
22. Duty Room Officer	P-3	X	
23. Duty Room Officer	P-3	X	
24. Duty Room Clerk	GS-OL	X	
25. Chief Clerk	GS-OL		
Planning Division			
Civilian Police Unit			
26. Desk Officer	P-4	X	
27. Desk Officer	P-4	X	

Functional title	*Grade*	*Posts which require military officers*	*Remarks*
28. Desk Officer	P-4	X	
29. Planning Officer	P-3	X	
Mission Planning Service			
30. Chief, Mission Planning Service	P-5	X	
Mission Development Unit			
31. Planning Officer	P-4	X	
32. Planning Officer	P-4	X	
33. Planning Officer	P-4	X	
34. Planning Officer	P-4	X	
35. Planning Officer	P-4	X	
36. Planning Officer	P-4	X	
37. Planning Officer	P-4	X	
38. Planning Officer	P-4	X	
Stand-by Arrangements Unit			
39. Planning Officer	P-4	X	
40. Planning Officer	P-4	X	
41. Planning Officer	P-4	X	
42. Administrative Assistant	GS-OL	X	
Training Unit			
43. Training Officer (Coordination and Budget)	P-4	X	
44. Training Officer	P-4	X	
45. Training Officer (Training Information)	P-4	X	
46. Training Officer (Research)	P-4	X	Classified P-3
47. Training Officer	P-3	X	Classified P-2
48. Editor	P-3		Classified P-2
Field Administration and Logistics Division			
Field Management and Support Service			
Office of the Chief of Service			
49. Roving Finance Officer	P-4		
50. Operational Review Officer	P-3		
Claims and Information Management Section			
Office of the Chief			
51. Finance/Administrative Assistant	GS-0L		
Systems and Data Analysis Unit			
52. Electronic Data Processing Analyst	P-3		
53. Electronic Data Processing Analyst	P-3		
Contingent-owned Equipment Claims Unit			
54. Claims Officer (old contingent-owned equipment team)	P-3		
55. Claims Officer (old contingent-owned equipment team)	P-3		
56. Claims Officer (old contingent-owned equipment team)	P-3		
57. Claims Officer (new contingent-owned equipment team)	P-3		

Functional title	*Grade*	*Posts which require military officers*	*Remarks*
58. Claims Officer (new contingent-owned equipment team)	P-3		
59. Claims Officer (new contingent-owned equipment team)	P-3		
60. Claim Officer (letters of assist team)	P-3		
61. Claims Assistant (letters of assist team)	GS-PL		
62. Claims Assistant (letters of assist team)	GS-OL		
Death and Disability and Other Claims Unit			
63. Claims Officer	P-3		
Financial Support Section			
Europe and Latin America Unit			
64. Finance Assistant	GS-PL		Classified OL
Africa Unit			
65. Finance Assistant	GS-PL		Classified OL
Logistics and Communications Service			
Logistics Operation Section			
Logistics Current Operations Unit			
66. Logistics Current Operations Officer	P-3		
67. Logistics Current Operations Officer	P-3		
68. Logistics Current Operations Officer	P-3		
69. Logistics Current Operations Officer	P-3		
70. Mission Liquidation Officer	P-3		
Future Operations Unit			
71. Chief, Future Operations Unit	P-4		
72. Logistics Future Operations Officer	P-3		
Engineering Section			
Engineering Operations Unit			
73. Engineering Operations Officer (Africa)	P-3		
74. Engineering Operations Officer (Europe and Latin America)	P-3		
75. Engineering Operations Officer (Asia and the Middle East)	P-3		
76. Engineering Officer (Asset/materials Management)	P-3		
Technical Support Unit			
77. Civil Engineering/Architect	P-4		Classified P-3
78. Electrical Engineer	P-3		
79. Water and Sanitation Engineer	P-3		
80. Field/Combat Engineer	P-3		
Electronic Services Section			
Communications Unit			
81. Chief, Communications Unit	P-4		
82. Communications Desk Officer	P-3		
83. Communications Desk Officer	P-3		

Functional title	*Grade*	*Posts which require military officers*	*Remarks*
Supply Section			
Services Unit			
84. Supply Officer – Rations Contracts	P-4		Classified P-3
85. Supply Officer – Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants	P-2		
86. Contracts Management Officer	P-4		
87. Contracts Management Officer	P-4		
88. Contracts Management Officer	P-2		
General Supply Unit			
89. Supply Officer – General Supply/Letters of Assist	P-3		
90. Supply Officer – General Supply/Letters of Assist	P-3		
Medical Support Unit			
91. Chief, Medical Support	P-5		
92. Deputy Chief	P-4		
93. Medical Support Officer	P-3		
94. Medical Support Officer	P-3		
95. Medical Supply Officer	P-3		
Transport Section			
Surface Transport Unit			
96. Surface Transport Officer	P-3		
97. Surface Transport Officer	P-3		
Air Transport Unit			
98. Air Transport Officer	P-3		
99. Air Transport Officer	P-3		
Aviation Safety Unit			
100. Aviation Safety Officer	P-3		
Movements Control Unit			
101. Movements Officer	P-3		
102. Movements Officer	P-3		
103. Movements Officer	P-3		
104. Movements Officer	P-3		
Sea Transport Unit			
105. Chief, Sea Transport Unit	P-4		
Personnel Management and Support Service			
Staffing Support Section			
Staffing Unit			
106. Staffing Officer	P-3		

Annex V

Field Administration and Logistics Division

	Temporary posts									
	Regular budget		Support account		Other		Gratis personnel		Total	
	1997-1998	1998-1999	1997-1998	1998-1999	1997-1998	1998-1999	1997-1998	1998-1999	1997-1998	1998-1999
Professional category and above										
Under-Secretary-General	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assistant Secretary-General	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
D-2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
D-1	1	1	3	3	—	—	—	—	4	4
P-5	1	1	9	10	—	—	2	—	12	11
P-4	3	3	23	35	—	—	16	—	42	38
P-3	2	2	18	60	—	—	39	—	59	62
P-2/P-1	5	5	3	5	—	—	9	—	17	10
Subtotal	**13**	**13**	**56**	**113**	**—**	**—**	**66**	**—**	**135**	**126**
General Service category										
GS (Principal level)	—	—	5	9	—	—	—	—	5	9
GS (Other level)	11	11	93	98	—	—	2	—	106	109
Subtotal	**11**	**11**	**98**	**107**	**—**	**—**	**2**	**—**	**111**	**118**
Grand total	**24**	**24**	**154**	**220**	**—**	**—**	**68**	**—**	**246**	**244**

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Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. On 24 November 1997, the General Assembly adopted resolution 52/20 in which it took note of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) (A/52/374) and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its fifty-third session on the development of cooperation between OAU and the organizations of the United Nations system.

II. Consultations and exchange of information

2. The Secretaries-General of the United Nations and OAU cooperate in a number of areas and consult regularly on key African questions with a view to coordinating initiatives and action. Since January 1997, in particular, they have discussed the need to build closer ties with a view to enhancing their mutual capacity for preventing and resolving conflicts in Africa and for coordinating their efforts in that regard. They took an important step in that connection when they agreed, in January 1997, to meet twice a year, along with their senior advisers, to discuss priority areas of cooperation and to coordinate their efforts. Subsequently, they reached an understanding that the meetings would take place immediately following the OAU summits and early during the General Assembly.

3. The first such meeting between the two Secretaries-General and their advisers was held in Harare on 3 June 1997 during the OAU summit. Since then, they have met in New York in October 1997, in Addis Ababa in April 1998 and in New York in July 1998, and have exchanged views on key African issues of common interest and concern. A meeting between the Secretariats of the United Nations system and OAU was held in Addis Ababa from 6 to 8 May 1998 to review the implementation of programmes of cooperation and to agree on follow-up action.

III. Cooperation in the areas of peace and security

A. Department of Political Affairs

4. The United Nations Department of Political Affairs is responsible for the programme of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations and arrangements. It organizes biannual meetings, chaired by the Secretary-General, with the heads of regional organizations and arrangements, including OAU. Such a meeting was held at United Nations Headquarters on 28 and 29 July 1998, in which OAU was represented by its Secretary-General, Salim Ahmed Salim. The topic of the meeting was cooperation for conflict prevention, focusing on the challenges of early warning and conflict prevention, the capabilities of the United Nations and regional organizations to meet those challenges and practical modalities for collaborative interaction between them.

5. The Department also organizes meetings with members of the Africa Group in New York to brief them on priority issues of common concern and to exchange ideas and information. Arrangements have been made to ensure that such briefings and exchanges of ideas are undertaken regularly in order to address issues of concern expeditiously and to facilitate any follow-up action that may be required.

6. There are also ongoing contacts and consultations between the Department and the office of the OAU Permanent Observer in New York. Such coordination and exchange of information is deemed vital to the effort to strengthen and rationalize United Nations-OAU cooperation. To that end, the Department and the office of the Permanent Observer have agreed to hold monthly meetings to exchange information and to facilitate the coordination of actions and initiatives.

7. On the recommendation of the Department, a United Nations liaison office with OAU was established in Addis Ababa in April 1998 to strengthen cooperation between the two organizations. The office will help to facilitate the exchange of information and the coordination of initiatives and efforts in the areas of preventive diplomacy and peacemaking as well as in the democratization and peace-building processes in Africa, and will coordinate the implementation of programmes of cooperation between the United Nations system and OAU agreed to at the annual meetings of their secretariats. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has seconded a staff member to the liaison office.

8. The Department of Political Affairs is also responsible for the programme of cooperation between the United Nations system and OAU, including the organization of the annual meetings of the secretariats of the two organizations. Such a meeting was convened to evaluate the implementation of existing programmes of cooperation and to agree on new ones (Addis Ababa, 6-8 May 1998).

B. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

9. In the past year, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has increased efforts to enhance cooperation with OAU. The Office has seconded a staff member to the United Nations liaison office with OAU. Through the liaison office, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs keeps OAU informed of United Nations actions to address humanitarian aspects of the crises in Africa in particular. The Office for the Coordinator of Humanitarian Affairs and OAU have also begun planning joint workshops on post-conflict reconstruction.

10. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has initiated a series of thematic joint meetings and consultations with OAU on formulating strategies to enhance early warning systems and information-sharing arrangements in addition to harmonizing operations. The Office has periodically exchanged information with the Conflict Prevention Unit of OAU and has continued to discuss and explore ways to increase cooperation between the Humanitarian Early Warning System and OAU. The Office's integrated regional information networks in Nairobi and Abidjan have regularly shared information with OAU and provided it with all available reports.

11. In order to better prepare for potential emergencies, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, in cooperation with other United Nations agencies, assisted OAU in implementing programmes intended to strengthen the capacities of African organizations. The International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction secretariat continued to maintain a strong presence in Africa with respect to technical assistance. It supports efforts to build national capacities for disaster and emergency management. The International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction national committees in Africa are supported by the Decade's secretariat in Geneva within the International Framework of Action for the Decade. The secretariat invited representatives from Algeria, Benin, Egypt, Kenya, South Africa and Zimbabwe to join the Scientific and Technical Committee for the Decade to increase awareness and promote international cooperation. The secretariat finances a number of training internships through its fellowship programme in several countries to increase technical expertise for development purposes in the region.

C. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

12. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) continued to provide advisory services and technical assistance to African Governments and to OAU and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in promoting and protecting human rights. OHCHR developed a framework strategy with three main components: assisting Governments in improving the enjoyment of human rights at the national level; assisting OAU and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in promoting and protecting human rights; and strengthening non-governmental and grass-roots organizations. The strategy has been communicated to all African Governments and to the Secretary-General of OAU, and consultations have been undertaken with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with a view to mobilizing greater United Nations system-wide resources to support the realization of its objectives.

13. A project is being implemented by OHCHR that aims to strengthen Africa's regional mechanism for the promotion and protection of human rights. Assistance was provided to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to improve its procedures and working methods, and the project supports the Commission in its catalytic role in establishing an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights. OHCHR is assisting in the preparation of the First African Ministerial Conference on Human and Peoples' Rights, to be held in Luanda in October 1998. Specifically, OHCHR organized the mission of a staff member to Addis Ababa for discussions with the OAU secretariat in March 1998 which was followed by joint OAU/OHCHR mission to Luanda for discussions with the Government.

14. The High Commissioner has assigned a regional human rights resource person for southern Africa charged with facilitating, in coordination and consultation with UNDP resident representatives, the formulation, implementation and evaluation of projects for human rights, democracy and the rule of law, developed at government request. The resource person will also provide advice, as requested, to Governments of the region and to the secretariat of the Southern African Development Community.

IV. Cooperation in the field of economic and social development

A. Department of Economic and Social Affairs

15. In May 1998, the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs collaborated with the Department of Political Affairs in the organization of the annual meeting between the secretariats of the United Nations system and OAU. The Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries prepared and presented an analytical background paper on various initiatives on African development as well as on ways and means to harmonize them, in line with the relevant recommendation contained in the report of the Secretary-General on Africa.

16. The Office of the Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries also participated in the OAU summit held in Ouagadougou in June 1998. In addition to political issues, the meeting concentrated on the outcome of the first meeting of OAU and the African Economic Community (AEC) Ministers of Trade, in particular regarding Africa's position with respect to the implementation of the Uruguay Round agreements and the outcome of the second ordinary session of the Economic and Social Commission of AEC.

17. The OAU secretariat also participated in a number of activities and workshops organized or co-organized by the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries, including the Asia-Africa Workshop on Advancing Financial Intermediation in Africa (Mauritius, April 1998) and the International Task Force on Informal Sector Development in Africa. Also, OAU is a member of the Preparatory Committee for the second Tokyo International Conference on African Development (October, 1998), which is entrusted with the drafting of the Agenda for Action to be adopted at the Conference.

B. Economic Commission for Africa

18. The joint secretariat of OAU, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Development Bank (ADB) have adopted a work plan on major activities to be carried out for launching the operations of AEC up to 2000. Between 19 July and 21 August 1997, a mission of the joint secretariat visited most regional economic communities to hold consultations on the implementation of the work plan. The findings of the mission were discussed at the second ministerial session of the Economic and Social Commission of AEC (Cairo, 23 and 24 April 1998) and areas where AEC would strengthen its cooperation with the regional economic communities were identified.

19. In order to provide information on the status of the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa, ECA organized briefing sessions in conjunction with the OAU ministerial meetings in Ouagadougou in 1998. Under the proposed Special Initiative work programme for the coming two years, there are plans to organize subregional seminars and workshops to advocate and stimulate implementation of the Special Initiative at the country level through the exchange of information on the practical experiences of countries. ECA will seek the active participation of OAU in those workshops and seminars.

20. OAU and ECA collaborate very closely in implementing the air transport policy of the region as spelled out in the Yamoussoukro Declaration. The two institutions worked together in the preparation of the 11th meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport and Communications (Cairo, 25-27 November 1997), coupled with a forum on transport and communications development in Africa.

21. Among the many actions undertaken jointly by OAU, ECA and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization was the in-depth mid-term evaluation of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1991–2000). Data and information gathered from 21 African countries were used for the preparation and finalization of the mid-term report presented to the meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Whole on Industrialization in Africa and to the 13th meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry, both of which were held in Accra in May 1997.

22. OAU has taken an active role in the preparation of the second session of the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Development of Mineral Resources and Energy (Durban, South Africa, 21 and 22 November 1997). Two papers were presented by a high-level OAU delegation, including one by the African Energy Commission, the establishment of which was initiated jointly by OAU, ADB and ECA.

23. The Secretary-General of OAU and the Executive Secretary of ECA directed in February 1998 that the cooperation between their respective institutions be reviewed so that corrective measures could be taken in those areas that required strengthening. To that effect, two task forces were set up to look into the institutional framework of the

cooperation and the substantive matters respectively. At a recent meeting between the secretariats of the United Nations system and OAU, it was agreed that ECA should host and chair coordinating meetings every three or six months to monitor the implementation of programmes of cooperation.

C. United Nations Development Programme

24. Assistance has been provided to OAU in the establishment of an Internet home page linked to the information/technology plan. An agreement was signed between OAU and Africa Online Ltd. for hosting a World Wide Web site for OAU, which has been in place since June 1998. Linkages were being set up on the Internet among OAU, local African missions, Ministries of Foreign Affairs of OAU member States, the United Nations, donor countries and UNDP country offices. Through the project OAU has sent missions to the subregional organizations to permit linkages between them and OAU headquarters to explore how they can best complement efforts of OAU in establishing an early warning system. UNDP has also funded the participation of the first General Assembly of the Federation of OAU Clubs, which was convened in Ouagadougou in May 1998.

25. The UNDP-assisted project on capacity-building for the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution ($3 million) provided for training of OAU officers in the Conflict Management Division on appropriate information analysis methodology, Central Organ members on conflict situations in Africa and staff in state-of-the-art approaches to resource mobilization, as well as training in conflict analysis, military strategy, conflict resolution, project formulation, monitoring and evaluation. A donors' meeting and round table are planned to be organized for OAU in the near future.

26. Currently, the Programme on Promotion of Africa's Economic Cooperation and Integration through the establishment of AEC ($2,151,322) has the objective of strengthening the regional economic communities and finalizing protocols as provided for in the treaty establishing AEC. An OAU Resource Mobilization Unit will also be set up.

D. United Nations Environment Programme

27. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has focused on the promotion of regional cooperation on the environment in its cooperation with OAU, mainly through providing support to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN). OAU, ECA and UNEP have continued to provide secretariat services to AMCEN. Through this arrangement, OAU and UNEP have made significant contributions towards collective endeavours in addressing the environmental and socio-economic problems of the region.

28. In November 1997, OAU, ECA and UNEP convened the seventh session of AMCEN in order to review the AMCEN constitution, rules of procedure and a proposal on contribution quotas to its trust fund, with a view to formalizing AMCEN as the African intergovernmental body on the environment, and also to deliberate on environmental issues of concern to the Africa region. It was decided at the session to institutionalize the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment. Programme priorities for the region were also agreed upon including, among others, the development and management of freshwater resources, rational management of all types of forests, environmentally sound management of all types of waste and ratification and implementation of international environmental agreements of relevance to the region.

29. Within the framework of a decision taken at the 9th meeting of the Bureau of AMCEN (Nairobi, December 1996), the secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification, UNEP and OAU organized a Pan-African Conference on the Implementation of the Convention and follow-up in Africa on the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The Pan-African Conference was held in Ouagadougou in March 1997, and its outcome was endorsed by the Council of Ministers of OAU in May 1997.

E. World Food Programme

30. In 1997, the operational expenditures of the World Food Programme (WFP) in sub-Saharan Africa amounted to $502 million, or close to 50 per cent of WFP total assistance during the year. Relief assistance provided by WFP to OAU member States exceeded $403 million in 1997, reaching more than 15 million victims of natural and man-made disasters. WFP was the main provider of food assistance to refugees and displaced persons in Africa, while OAU was engaged in finding lasting solutions to the problem of refugees and displaced persons.

31. In addition to the high level of relief activities implemented in 1997, WFP continued to provide development assistance to the region. This assistance was

channelled in accordance with the priority sectors identified by beneficiary countries themselves. In this endeavour, special attention was given to the mitigation of the negative effects of structural adjustment in several African countries as well as to agricultural and rural development activities.

32. About 40 per cent of all the food distributed in Africa was procured locally, either in surplus producing countries or in surplus producing areas of the recipient country. The promotion of such intraregional trade should facilitate the objective of regional economic integration. Furthermore, WFP relied heavily on private transport, which often crosses national boundaries, for overland food transport. Fifty per cent of the overall WFP expenditure for food transport was spent in Africa.

33. In its effort to increase the role of women, WFP initiated gender activities in both development and relief projects in Africa. Where a gender gap existed, in country programmes, WFP introduced a target of investing 60 per cent of resources in women and girls.

34. WFP was a major provider of skills and management training to local and counterpart staff in Africa. It continued to place emphasis on training activities in areas such as project identification and implementation, monitoring and reporting and food storage and management. It also continued to work closely with its African counterparts to improve early warning systems and response mechanisms to mitigate the effects of natural disasters.

F. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

35. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) continued discussions with OAU on various ways of improving cooperation and collaboration between the two organizations. An OAU delegation visited the Centre in May 1998. A number of joint programme and project proposals were discussed, including joint organization of a seminar on human settlements planning and management in Africa and a proposed Africa regional ministerial meeting on the implementation of the habitat agenda. Discussions are continuing, and it is hoped that agreements will be reached subsequently on their joint implementation. Other areas of cooperation between the two organizations continue to be explored.

G. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

36. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continued to actively participate in the meetings of the OAU Commission on Refugees and extended assistance and support to the Commission during its visits to refugee camps and settlements in Africa. As requested in a resolution adopted at the OAU Council of Ministers and Assembly of Heads of State and Government sessions in Harare in 1997, UNHCR has collaborated and will continue to cooperate with OAU in the preparations for the OAU Commission on Refugees Ministerial Meeting on Refugees and Displaced Persons in Africa, scheduled to be held in Khartoum in December 1998.

37. UNHCR also worked with other OAU bodies, such as its Coordinating Committee on Assistance and Protection to Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons. As chairman of the Coordinating Committee, UNHCR collaborated with OAU and the other members of the Committee in a consultative process to expand the mandate and enlarge the membership of the Committee, which culminated in the twenty-fifth session of the Coordinating Committee held in Maputo in 1997. UNHCR and OAU are developing modalities to implement the recommendations adopted at the Maputo meeting in order to further enhance the ability of the Committee to be more effective and relevant in dealing with the current refugee and humanitarian issues in Africa, particularly at the field level.

38. During the period under review, UNHCR and OAU engaged in a process of joint and bilateral consultations with the Governments concerned in the Great Lakes region to find durable solutions to the refugee problems there. In that regard, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the OAU Secretary-General co-chaired a regional meeting on refugee issues in the Great Lakes region (Kampala, May 1998). OAU and UNHCR were to follow up on the recommendations, including cooperating with broader regional and international forums and institutions. The results of the regional meeting could provide important input to the OAU Ministerial Meeting on Refugees to be held in December 1998.

39. In April 1998, UNHCR intensified its support to OAU in the area of early warning and conflict prevention. Building upon previous missions and consultations between OAU and UNHCR in this area, an experienced UNHCR staff member was seconded to assist the OAU Conflict Division in developing parameters for describing potential or actual conflict situations. UNHCR would continue to collaborate with OAU to facilitate a structured and systematic approach

to streamlining information and to reporting and analysing conflicts. In addition, OAU participated in a UNHCR-organized training seminar on emergency management in November 1997.

40. As a follow-up to previous meetings on peace-building held in Kampala, Johannesburg, South Africa, and Kigali, OAU, ECA and UNHCR and other United Nations agencies organized a regional workshop on best practices of women in peace-building and conflict resolution in November 1997. These complementary and mutually reinforcing activities on women in peacemaking and peace-building could provide useful input to the OAU/ECA African Women's Committee on Peace and Development, established in April 1998.

H. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

41. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) provided support and assistance to OAU and AEC for the Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials and to the Meeting of African Ministers of Trade (Harare, 6–9 April 1998), held in preparation for the second World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference. A round table was organized by UNCTAD (Geneva, 25 March) in cooperation with UNDP and AEC to provide an opportunity to representatives of African countries to exchange views on issues relating to the WTO Ministerial Conference. Two major issues were considered at the round table, namely, elements of a positive agenda for Africa for both the implementation of the WTO work programme and future activities at WTO, and mechanisms to enhance the effective participation of African countries in the multilateral trading system. In connection with the latter, African Ministers of Trade requested UNCTAD to provide assistance to African countries wishing to accede to WTO through, among other things, the use of a UNDP project on capacity-building for trade. Furthermore, a series of decisions was adopted with regard to the elements of a positive agenda for African States based on the preparatory work undertaken at the seminar.

42. UNCTAD also participated in the OAU Forum on Promotion of Financial Market Integration and Development in Africa (Mauritius, 15–17 July 1997), and made a presentation on the question of globalization of financial markets and its implications for developing countries.

43. UNCTAD has continued its cooperation with OAU and the League of Arab States in the context of the fourth Afro-Arab trade fair. UNCTAD participated in the second preparatory committee (Dakar, 5–8 May 1998), and discussions were under way for UNCTAD to participate in the fair to be held in Dakar in 1999 on issues related to cooperation, trade and trade facilitation.

44. OAU has been invited to participate in a conference being organized by UNCTAD on African development in a comparative perspective, to be held in Mauritius on 24 and 25 September. In addition to the OAU secretariat, all African countries have been invited to participate in this event, which would cover issues related to agricultural and industrial development, the role of trade including regional trade, and issues in the design of structural adjustment policies.

I. International Labour Organization

45. The priority objective of the International Labour Organization (ILO) for the Africa region included reduction of poverty through the promotion of employment, the protection of workers and the promotion of democracy through social dialogue. In recent years, approximately half the financial resources put at the disposal of ILO for technical cooperation have been channelled to Africa. This has enabled the Organization to develop close cooperation with OAU in areas of common interest. Cooperation took a variety of forms, including joint technical activities, promotion of common policy goals, enhancement of tripartism and human rights, elimination of child labour, protection of migrant workers, refugees and displaced persons, enhancement of the participation of women and youth in the development process, action in respect to conflict-affected countries, fight against poverty, vocational rehabilitation and participation in each other's meetings.

46. Major joint technical programmes and activities implemented by ILO and OAU in the past included seminars and workshops covering the following themes: international labour migration, elimination of child labour, micro-economic analysis for economic integration, women's employment opportunities, and occupational safety and health. The joint technical secretariat of ILO and OAU also examined and reviewed activities pertaining to entrepreneurship and enterprise development, social security, refugees and displaced persons and vocational training.

47. In the area of tripartism and human rights, ILO provided technical assistance in strengthening tripartism within the framework of the OAU Labour and Social Affairs Commission and continued to make significant financial and technical contributions to the Organization of African Trade

Union Unity and the Pan African Employers' Confederation. Cooperation was also directed at enhancing the implementation and ratification of international labour conventions.

48. Assistance concerning migrant workers included preparation of technical studies in the five subregions of Africa. The studies were major inputs to the OAU-sponsored seminar on inter-African migration held in Cairo. Cooperation with OAU in the advancement of women has been stepped up by the ILO contribution to the OAU conference on the girl-child held in Kampala.

J. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

49. Cooperation in the traditional areas of collaboration between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and OAU, such as joint promotion of food security, agricultural development and trade and regional cooperation and integration, benefited from the consistent support of the legislative organs and secretariat of OAU for follow-up to the World Food Summit, cooperation on the institutionalization of the Pan African Veterinary Vaccines Centre and the beginning of a partnership for the strengthening of African capacity to respond to the challenges of post-Uruguay Round agricultural trade.

50. Cooperation with the OAU Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources on the Pan African Rinderpest Campaign has produced successes leading to consideration being given to the broadening of the Campaign's effort to cover a wider range of cross-border contagious livestock diseases. In fisheries, FAO and the OAU Scientific, Technical and Research Commission strengthened their cooperation through their participation in each other's technical meetings. In May 1998, FAO gave two technical presentations to the Scientific, Technical and Research Commission Inter-African Committee on Oceanography, Sea and Inland Fisheries at its fifth session.

51. The OAU Scientific, Technical and Research Commission has cooperated with FAO in the development of a regional programme for strengthening national capacities and regional cooperation in forestry research through a Forestry Research Network for Sub-Saharan Africa.

52. FAO cooperation with AEC for the development of a common African agricultural programme received a boost in February 1998. The twentieth FAO regional conference for Africa, followed by the sixth ordinary session of the OAU Council of Ministers, breathed new life into the process of developing the programme, in which FAO is the principal international development partner of OAU, providing renewed political support and operational directives and guidelines. Since then, FAO has designated a focal point on the common African agricultural programme and intensified its consultations and cooperation with AEC on the acceleration of the process. The impulse for OAU-FAO cooperation on the programme was further strengthened by the endorsement by the thirty-fourth OAU summit (Ouagadougou, June 1998) of the twentieth FAO regional conference recommendations on the programme.

K. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

53. During the period under review, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and OAU held their sixth Joint Commission consultation meeting (Paris, 15 May 1998) and agreed to reinforce the coordination of their actions and their cooperation in the areas of education, culture, information, science and a culture of peace. The recently reinforced UNESCO office in Addis Ababa worked closely with OAU, not only in defining the priority areas for cooperation to be discussed by the two organizations during this meeting, but also in the content of the agenda for the meeting.

54. UNESCO also participated in an international conference entitled "African women and economic development: investing in our future" (Addis Ababa, 28 April-1 May 1998). One of the conclusions of the conference was a tripartite agreement between UNESCO, OAU and ECA on women and a culture of peace, drafted in cooperation with the Committee of African Women for Peace. At the OAU meetings in Ouagadougou in June 1998, two decisions of interest to UNESCO were taken. The first concerned the coordination of actions between the OAU Decade of Education in Africa (1997-2006) and the UNESCO Decade of Literacy, and the second, the promotion of a culture of peace. The UNESCO office in Addis Ababa is involved in the implementation of those two decisions.

55. The OAU Council of Ministers has recommended the implementation of two complementary projects – a cultural atlas of Africa and a pan-African guide to civic education. The UNESCO office in Addis Ababa participated in the first meeting of the technical committee for those projects in January 1998. The office will involve OAU in the various cultural activities it will be organizing in celebration of the

fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

56. UNESCO has continued its close collaboration with OAU on the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa. As part of the implementation of the African Decade for Education and the "basic education for all" component, a tripartite accord was signed on 24 July 1997 by OAU, UNESCO and the International Foundation for Education and Self-Help for a programme of support to educational rehabilitation in Africa". The accord foresees the construction of primary schools and vocational training centres in all the countries of sub-Saharan Africa through the mobilization of extrabudgetary funds.

L. World Health Organization

57. The World Health Organization (WHO) has given support to OAU member States in implementing the Yaoundé Declaration on Polio Eradication in Africa and the Harare Declaration on Malaria Prevention and Control in the Context of African Economic Recovery and Development. In the joint struggle against HIV/AIDS on the continent, WHO has actively participated in many forums on HIV/AIDS and has supported OAU technically and financially by implementing the Dakar and Tunis declarations on AIDS. WHO has taken steps to improve the OAU clinic servicing the OAU staff and African diplomatic corps in Addis Ababa.

58. WHO participated actively in the preparation of the Pan African Ministerial Health Conference (Cairo, June 1998) on the follow-up to the Harare Declaration on Malaria Prevention and Control in the Context of African Economic Recovery and Development by providing a technical paper on malaria. WHO and OAU have agreed on an initiative for the establishment of a long-term joint OAU/WHO project associated with the Special Health Fund for Africa under which further fund-raising would be managed. They have also worked on the follow-up to and implementation of the Pan African Conference on Landmines (Kempton Park, South Africa, May 1997) by organizing the first consultative meeting in Addis Ababa in September 1997.

59. WHO and OAU collaborated on the evaluation of the Pan African Emergency Training Centre, which was followed by the initiation of the Emergency Health Training Programme, whose role was to strengthen regional and national capacity in emergency health management. OAU participated as a full member in the programme's steering committee. In the context of the African Information Society Initiative, WHO worked with OAU on establishing access and linkages between their information bases.

M. World Bank

60. A key development in the World Bank's collaboration with OAU occurred in January 1998 when the Bank met with OAU officials at OAU headquarters in Addis Ababa. High-level cooperation was reaffirmed and a broad range of issues, including the Partnership for Capacity-Building in Africa, the Great Lakes region, debt and Bank partnerships with African organizations, were discussed. A follow-up meeting resulted in an agreement to send a Bank mission to OAU to work on implementing cooperative approaches to those issues.

61. In February 1998, Bank staff met with OAU officials to discuss the installation of the World Bank's Africa Live Database at OAU headquarters and to prepare a statistical capacity-building proposal on behalf of OAU. OAU has since submitted the proposal to European donor Governments. Bank staff returned to OAU to follow up on those capacity-building initiatives in May.

62. On 15 June 1998, the Secretary-General of OAU presented the Organization's perspective as a featured speaker of the World Bank Gender and Law Workshop in Washington, D.C. Bank staff attending annual OAU summit meetings have found them to be useful forums for substantive exchanges with their OAU counterparts on all areas of collaboration.

N. International Monetary Fund

63. The International Monetary Fund collaborated closely with bilateral and multilateral donors and other agencies of the United Nations system in coordinating aid, particularly in the context of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa. This collaboration included participation in multilateral aid coordination conferences and debt rescheduling in the framework of the Paris Club. The Fund also closely followed and contributed to the ongoing deliberations of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's Development Assistance Committee on ways to improve the efficiency of official development assistance and to better coordinate the activities of different donors in support of the adjustment and reform programmes of African countries. Moreover, together with the World Bank, the Fund has created a framework for collaborative action with other multilateral institutions and bilateral

creditors to resolve the external debt problems of the heavily indebted poor countries. Five African countries were among the first to be considered for debt relief under the initiative.

64. The Fund has also deepened its collaboration with various subregional economic organizations. The Fund's policy advice and surveillance functions, as well as its technical assistance to African countries, are consistent with and directly supportive of the efforts of AEC to foster regional and subregional economic integration as building blocks towards economic integration and cooperation on a continental scale.

65. The Fund provides financial assistance to African countries in support of their structural adjustment programmes through the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility, the Extended Fund Facility, and stand-by arrangements. As of early June 1998, there were 27 arrangements in place with OAU member countries for a total commitment of 3.14 billion special drawing rights; the undrawn balance totalled 1.54 billion special drawing rights. Through its catalytic role, the Fund also assisted African countries in mobilizing additional resources from bilateral and multilateral donors.

O. World Intellectual Property Organization

66. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)/OAU Gold Medal Award ceremony took place during the OAU summit in Harare in June 1997. The OAU Chairman and the Director-General of WIPO presented the medal to the best African inventor.

67. In May 1998, WIPO received a delegation from the Scientific, Technical and Research Commission of OAU to discuss means of cooperation between the two organizations. The Chief of the Science and Technology Section of OAU was invited by WIPO to participate in a training course that was organized by the WIPO Academy (Geneva, June 1998).

68. WIPO and OAU held discussions with regard to the 1999 WIPO/OAU Gold Medal Award for the best African invention. Three gold medals will be distributed to winners at the award ceremony, scheduled to take place during the OAU summit in 1999. WIPO will also provide winners with financial rewards.

69. WIPO was invited by the OAU to cooperate in the organization of the forthcoming Afro-Arab Trade Fair and to have a WIPO stand at the fair. An OAU/WIPO working group was set up to administer a WIPO-funded project in the framework of the fair.

V. Cooperation in other areas

A. Universal Postal Union

70. The Universal Postal Union (UPU) has continued to devote a large part of its technical assistance resources to projects in African countries. The Union organized, at its own expense, a conference of ministers responsible for postal services in sub-Saharan African countries (Abidjan, July 1996). The conference adopted the Abidjan Action Plan, covering development and improvement of thematic areas in customer needs and commercial strategies, quality of service and improvement of operations, human resources, management independence and postal development. UPU has contributed more than 1 million Swiss francs towards the implementation of the action plan over the period 1997–1999.

71. UPU, in collaboration with the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries of UNDP, the World Bank and the host country, organized a conference on postal reform for sub-Saharan African countries, which targeted ways and means to facilitate postal reform in sub-Saharan Africa in the light of mounting pressure from customers for improved quality of service, competition from parallel markets, deregulation and threats emanating from the advancement of information technology (Arusha, April 1998). The conference adopted a resolution on the implementation of the reform process by the participating countries.

72. UPU has decided to set up a regional support centre in Africa in 1998 for tracking postal items through an electronic data interchange linking postal administrations worldwide and will examine the possibility of setting up more centres in Africa.

B. World Meteorological Organization

73. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) established an additional subregional office in Nairobi in 1998 for the benefit of eastern and southern African countries. Some 195 fellows from various African countries undertook training in 1997 in several specialized fields of meteorology and hydrology with WMO assistance.

74. WMO has continued to implement the strategy and action plan on water resources policy and assessment developed by WMO and ECA. In that regard, a WMO working group on hydrology for the African region met in July 1998 and adopted short- and medium-term activities to

implement the strategy and action plan. OAU, ECA and subregional organizations were invited to the meeting.

75. A related activity was the implementation of subregional water resources assessment projects known as the Hydrological Cycle Observing System (HYCOS). During 1997 and 1998, the HYCOS project for southern Africa commenced implementation; the European Union provided funds to formulate the HYCOS project for eastern Africa; the Western African HYCOS project document was finalized and funds were being mobilized for implementation; and the European Union provided funds for the formulation of the Central Africa HYCOS project, which is in the final stage of preparation.

C. United Nations Drug Control Programme

76. OAU and the United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) have continued to strengthen their cooperation in drug control matters. The focus of activities has been shifted towards implementing the OAU Political Declaration and Plan of Action on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking Control in Africa, which was formulated with UNDCP assistance and adopted at the OAU summit in July 1996. A new regional project between UNDCP and OAU started in late 1997, aimed at creating a drug control unit within the OAU secretariat. This three-year project provided training, advisory services and logistical support to the new drug unit, which was managed and staffed by African experts. The unit coordinated, monitored and advised member States in their implementation of provisions of the drug control action plan.

77. UNDCP is currently funding some 40 drug control projects with a volume of over $12 million at the national and regional levels, in the framework of the above initiatives. The network of field offices of UNDCP in Africa has accordingly been strengthened to further improve cooperation with regional and governmental bodies as well as with non-governmental organizations, and to mobilize and support drug control action at the grass-root level. Currently, the Programme's field operations throughout Africa are backstopped by four regional offices (Cairo for north Africa, Dakar for west and central Africa, Nairobi for east Africa and Pretoria for southern Africa) and one country office (Lagos).

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Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report was prepared in compliance with General Assembly resolution 52/3 of 22 October 1997 on cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System (SELA).

2. For the preparation of the present report, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) wrote to the following organizations of the United Nations system requesting an update of their activities with SELA: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Trade Organization (WTO), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development, International Labour Organization (ILO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Telecommunication Union, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Universal Postal Union, World Bank, World Health Organization (WHO), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Environment Programme, International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, United Nations University (UNU), United Nations Development Fund for Women, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development and United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). Eight of those organizations sent updated information on their cooperation with SELA. Eleven noted that they did not currently carry out any activities with SELA, although some of them expressed a desire to do so in the future. The following summary is based on the information submitted.

II. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System

3. As noted in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session (A/52/376), since the establishment of SELA, in October 1975, considerable cooperation has taken place between United

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Nations organizations, agencies and programmes, especially ECLAC, and SELA.

4. Such cooperation has intensified over the years and has become more diversified in terms of both the areas of cooperation and the organizations concerned.

5. Cooperation between ECLAC and SELA has consisted, *inter alia*, of the participation of representatives of ECLAC and SELA in meetings of the two institutions and in the preparation by ECLAC of specialized documents in various subject areas in support of SELA activities. Some examples of this cooperation are listed below.

6. The Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning continued to coordinate its programme activities with SELA, through regular contacts with SELA officials and staff members.

7. The Latin American Centre for Economic and Social Documentation (CLADES) cooperated with SELA in 1998 in the framework of ECLAC assistance in reconstituting the SELA Permanent Secretariat's information systems following the fire at its premises in February 1998. The technical assistance mission undertaken in April 1998 issued a report entitled "Reconstruction of the data bank and information management systems of the Permanent Secretariat of SELA". UNDP helped to finance this mission.

8. In the framework of an initiative between ECLAC, SELA and the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA), the Division of International Trade, Finance and Transport of ECLAC participated in the first three meetings of trade policy officials of Latin America and the Caribbean. The purpose of those meetings is to examine and orient American and Caribbean policies in the light of various international trends and prospects and national policies to promote economic and social development. During the fourth meeting, convened at ECLAC headquarters in August 1998, a coordination meeting of all subregional economic integration bodies was held.

9. Staff members from the Division of Production, Productivity and Management of ECLAC participated as lecturers in the second meeting of the Regional Forum on Industrial Policy, organized by SELA in Caracas on 31 July and 1 August 1997. That meeting marked the continuation of cooperation with SELA in the area of industrialization begun at the first meeting, held in San José in October 1994.

10. The subregional headquarters of ECLAC in Mexico cooperates closely with the Permanent Secretariat of SELA in conducting the course on Central American integration given annually since 1995 in various Central American countries. It is intended to continue offering these courses until the year 2000. Cooperation takes the form of joint organization of the courses, preparation of specialized documentation, lectures by ECLAC staff and experts and assistance in the substantive and conceptual design of the courses.

11. ECLAC has contributed, as joint publisher, to the production of several SELA books on various subjects, in particular social policy, economic integration and the environment.

12. FAO has maintained close cooperation with SELA, *inter alia*, through reciprocal attendance at meetings, exchange of information, experience, documents and publications, and implementation of joint activities.

13. In the biennium 1997–1998, FAO assisted in the organization of and was represented at the following events: (a) the Twelfth Meeting of Directors of International Technical Cooperation and Thirteenth Meeting of the Coordinating Mechanism for International Organizations and Regional Forums in charge of carrying out Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC), held in Antigua, Guatemala, in May 1997; (b) a workshop organized jointly by SELA and the Inter-American Development Bank on market access issues in the Uruguay Round, held in Cartagena, Colombia, in June 1997, with the participation of 24 Latin American and Caribbean countries, at which FAO presented a document on provisions for agricultural products, including sanitary and phytosanitary measures, subsidy provisions and their implications, tariffs, and opportunities and challenges presented by the agricultural provisions of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM); (c) the Thirteenth Meeting of Directors of International Technical Cooperation, held in Bridgetown, Barbados, in June 1998; (d) the Fourteenth Meeting of the Coordinating mechanism for International Organizations and Regional Forums in charge of carrying out TCDC, held in Bridgetown, Barbados, in June 1998; (e) a SELA/UNCTAD workshop on agricultural trade in the multilateral framework focusing on the Latin American and Caribbean Perspective, held in Geneva in June 1998.

14. Although the International Trade Centre, UNCTAD/WTO did not implement any specific activity or project with SELA during the period concerned, it expressed interest in establishing channels of cooperation between the two organizations.

15. IMF has continued its cooperation with SELA in areas of common interest in the field of its competence and jurisdiction. In particular, the IMF Legal Department provided technical assistance for the organization of the second and third high-level meetings of the reform of

financial systems in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Caracas on 27 and 28 October 1997 and in Madrid on 28 and 29 May 1998, respectively. Those meetings were attended by bank superintendents, central bank officials, representatives of the commercial banking system and academics from Latin America and other regions.

16. UNESCO continued to cooperate with SELA in its areas of competence, especially in programmes relating to integrated economic and social policies, growth and employment, globalization and cultural undertakings, intellectual property, crafts development and communication for integration. The UNESCO office in Caracas was represented at governmental and expert meetings on these subjects.

17. UNESCO and SELA are jointly executing a regional project on communication for integration in Latin America and the Caribbean, begun in 1994 with the support of the International Programme for the Development of Communication. The main objective of this project is to foster the development of a culture of integration in the countries of the region, with a view to improving quality of life and encouraging the participation of citizens in the processes involved. The project, which will be completed in the next few months, has achieved the following results:

(a) Establishment and start-up of a network of Latin American economic newspapers, officially inaugurated in Bogotá in August 1995. The network currently links 14 important Latin American newspapers by electronic mail. There is a possibility that other newspapers will be included in the network in the near future;

(b) Production and distribution of a monthly bulletin on integration in Latin America and the Caribbean, published in English and Spanish;

(c) Establishment of a network of governmental and private users for the exchange of information on integration processes in the region;

(d) Strengthening of the Information Dissemination System for Latin American and Caribbean Cooperation and Integration Bodies (SIDALC), composed of the press officers of 14 regional integration and cooperation bodies;

(e) Production of a series of 20 radio programmes on regional integration;

(f) Strengthening of mechanisms for the telematic dissemination of information on issues of interest to SELA;

(g) Completion of a study on cultural identity in the region and provision of technical and financial support for a seminar on economic integration and culture in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Buenos Aires on 30 and 31 July 1998.

18. In addition, SELA has provided technical and financial assistance in the organization of two meetings on the theme of peace, tolerance and integration, held in Panama in May 1995 and in El Salvador. It also provided support to the Latin American Forum on Communication and Information for Democracy, organized by UNESCO in Caracas on 30 June and 1 July 1997. The theme of that meeting was freedom of expression and freedom of the press, human rights that are fundamental for the exercise of democracy in Latin America.

19. During the period in question, UNIDO organized, in close cooperation with SELA, the second meeting of the Regional Forum on Industrial Policy from 30 July to 1 August 1997.

20. World Bank staff attended various SELA-sponsored events and vice versa. The World Bank, together with SELA, the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and privatization agencies in Latin America and the Caribbean, form the Latin American and Caribbean Network on Privatization, established in January 1996. Through this network, the World Bank has co-sponsored two annual conferences, two meetings on sectoral privatization and a training course, in addition to providing support to the Network's page on the SELA Web site at *http://www.sela.org*.

21. WIPO organized its Regional Symposium for Latin American and Caribbean Countries on the Economic Importance of Intellectual Property and on Enforcement of Rights under the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights in Cartagena, Colombia, from 12 to 14 March 1997, in cooperation with the Government of Colombia and SELA. High-level government officials took part in this event. SELA was represented by its permanent Secretary, who closed the symposium together with a representative of the Government of Colombia.

22. UNDP provided SELA with financial support for a symposium on decentralization and for the Twelfth Meeting of Directors of International Technical Cooperation, held in Guatemala in 1997. In addition, it provided financing for SELA technical assistance activities. Moreover, when the SELA premises were damaged by a fire, the UNDP office in Caracas provided full support to SELA activities during the emergency.

III. Conclusion

23. Cooperation between SELA and the programmes, organizations and agencies of the United Nations is growing and diversifying, and inter-agency cooperation has been established in many areas in which optimal use is being made of existing resources for the benefit of the countries of the region.